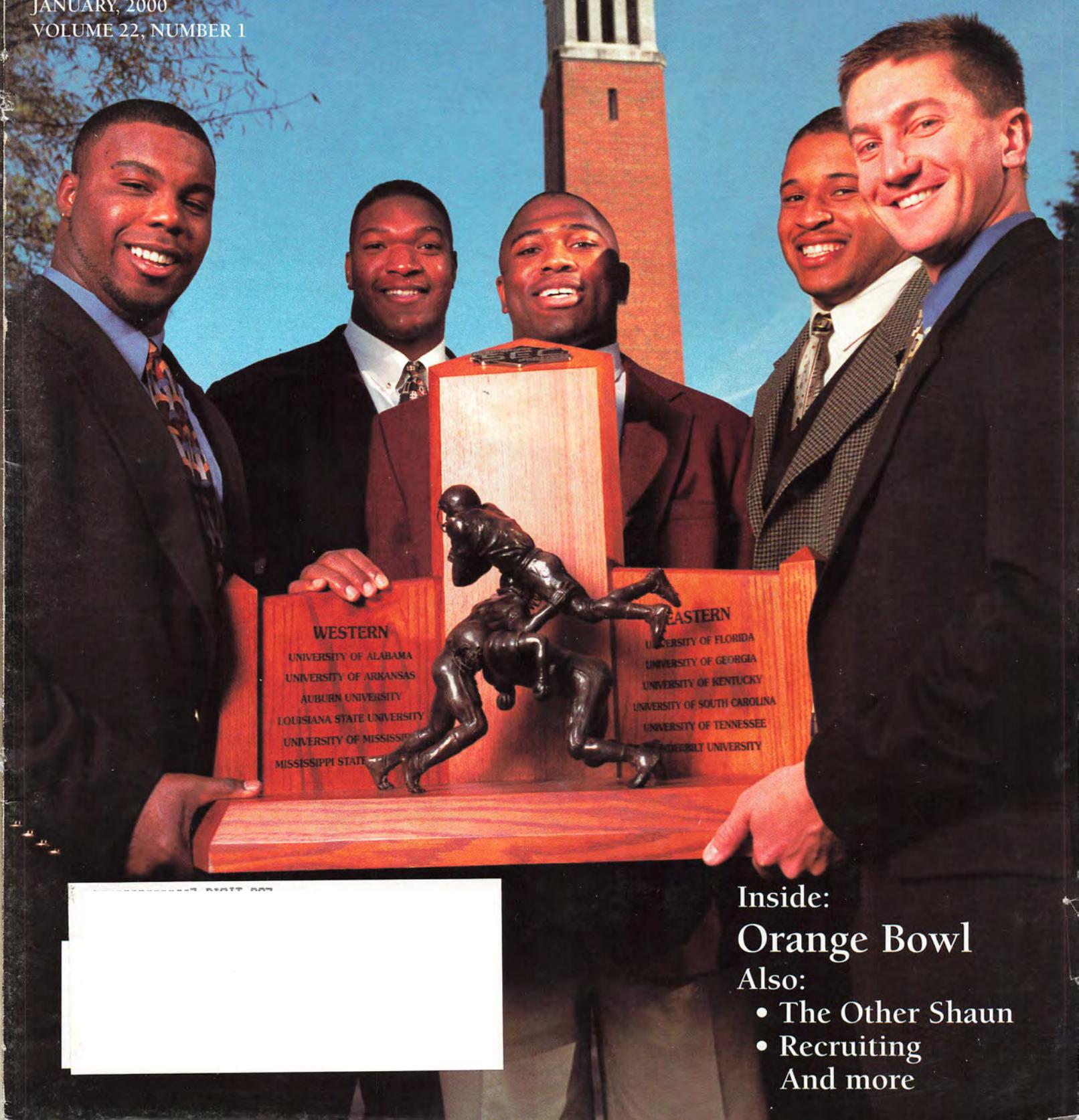


BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

JANUARY, 2000

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 1



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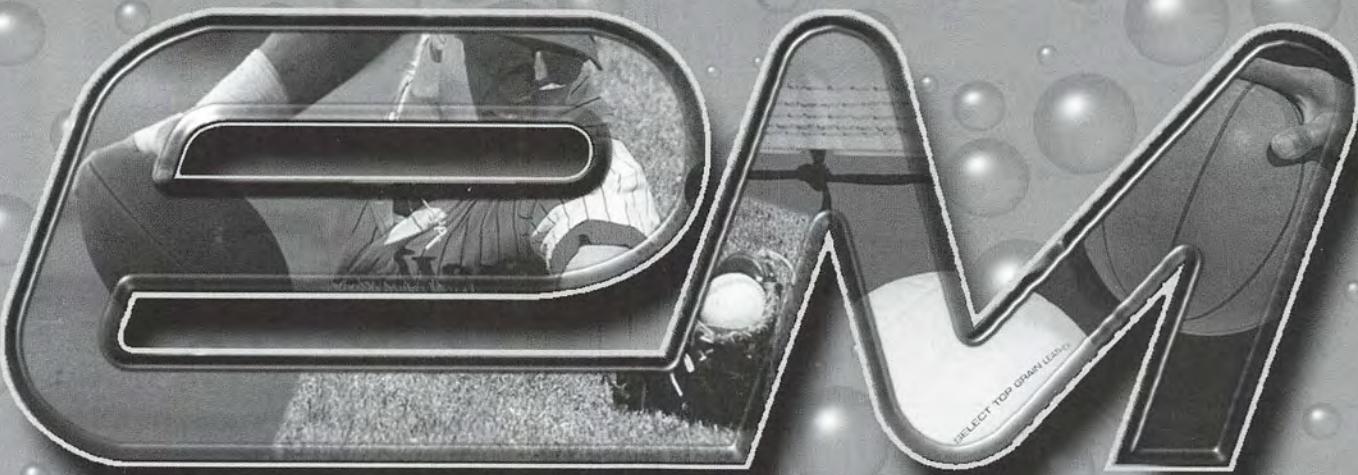
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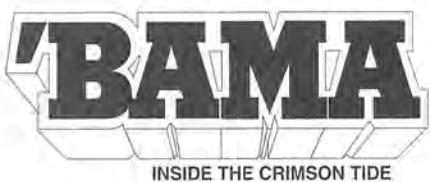
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Barry Fikes Photo



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The Orange Bowl: This Could Be Another Major Step

Alabama had great success in 1999, including playing its way into the nation's top ten and a Bowl Championship Series appearance at the Orange Bowl in Miami. The game also offers Bama a chance to build for the 2000 season.

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The Seniors: DuBose Credits Them For Success

Although the 1999 Crimson Tide football team does not include a large number of seniors, those Tiders have paved the way for Bama success.

by Kirk McNair

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Kelvis White is the brother of a former Alabama football player, one reason he is well aware of what is expected of Crimson Tide players. He has high hopes for 2000, his senior season.

by Chris Olds

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This year was for Shaun A, Shaun Alexander, but if the depth chart holds true, next year should feature Shaun B, Shaun Bohanon, at tailback in the Crimson Tide football offense.

by J.E. Lisby

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Both Men's Coach Dick Spybey and Women's Coach Betty Palmer found out a lot about their golf teams in fall play. Both have expectations of good play in the spring.

by Donna Fromme

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Tennis Outlook: Tiders Facing Up To Big Challenges

The men's team of Coach Adam Steinberg should rank among the nation's best again this year. The women's team of Coach Jenny Mainz should be much improved.

by Andrew Varble II

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There have been developments on the football recruiting front this fall. Here's an update on some high school and junior college stars and on some players previously signed by the Tide.

by James Edwards

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Early Signing Period Success For Winter, Spring Sports

The early signing period has produced good players for Bama in a number of winter and spring sports. Some were announced earlier and there will likely be a few more announced later.

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The Orange Bowl:

This Could Be Another Major Step

by Kirk McNair

New Year's Day game
matches big name teams

It just feels right. If Alabama can't play for the national championship, the Crimson Tide should play in a traditional, big time bowl against a traditional, big time team. Alabama vs. Michigan in the Orange Bowl on New Year's Day qualifies nicely.

Alabama is America's bowl team. This will be a national record number 50 for the Crimson Tide. And Alabama has also won more bowl games than any other team, 28. (Bama's record in bowl games is 28-18-3.) Michigan is high up on that bowl ladder, too. The Wolverines will be playing in their 31st bowl game, tied for ninth highest in history, and Michigan has won 15 times, which is 13th best in college football history. (The Wolverines also have 15 losses.)

Michigan is certainly no stranger to winning. It has happened a record 795 times since the team began playing in 1879. Alabama, with eight wins snatched away by the NCAA a few years ago, ranks fifth in victories with 734, one behind Texas and eight back of Nebraska. The Wolverines are second in all-time winning percentage, 74.6, Alabama third, 72.4 per cent.

Alabama and Michigan will meet in the Orange Bowl in Miami, Florida, on January 1, 2000. The game will be played at Pro Player Stadium. Kickoff will be at 8:30 p.m. EST (7:30 CST) with television coverage by ABC. The same ABC broadcast team that did the Southeastern Conference Championship Game—Brad Nessler, Bob Griese and Lynn Swann—will handle the Orange Bowl.

Although Alabama has played in seven previous bowl games (and has a 4-3 record in those trips), this will be the first Orange Bowl Bama has played that was not in Orange Bowl Stadium in downtown Miami. Pro Player Park is north of downtown Miami, on the outskirts of Fort Lauderdale. The Tide has played one pre-



Alabama football teams under Coach Mike DuBose have improved each year. DuBose and his squad will be trying to improve its bowl game performance when Bama meets Michigan in the Orange Bowl in Miami on January 1, 2000. A key for the Tide will be the play of tailback Shaun Alexander (37), who chose Bama over Michigan in a recruiting battle five years ago.

Barry Fikes Photo

vious game in the stadium, then known as Joe Robbie Stadium in the bowl then known as the Blockbuster. Bama defeated Colorado, 30-25, at the conclusion of the 1991 season.

The Alabama-Michigan series is a limited one, two previous bowl games in South Florida. Michigan took the first game in the January 2, 1988, Hall of Fame Bowl in Tampa, completing a touchdown pass in the final minute of play for a 28-24 decision. Alabama evened the series at the end of the 1996 season in the Outback Bowl in Tampa. The 17-14 decision included Dwayne Rudd returning an interception 88 yards for a touchdown and Shaun Alexander dashing 46 yards for a touchdown, both in the fourth quarter.

Alabama has a 10-2 record, including an 8-1 mark in conference games. Bama is champion of the SEC by virtue of its 34-7 victory over Florida and the Crimson Tide is ranked fifth in the nation by the Associated Press, sixth in the Coaches Poll conducted by USA Today and ESPN. Michigan is 9-2 overall and was 6-2 in Big Ten play, with one of those victories coming over Big Ten champion Wisconsin. The Wolverines are ranked eighth both by the AP and the coaches.

Neither Alabama nor Michigan took the easy route to a Bowl Championship Series match-up. According to those BCS ratings, Alabama had the toughest schedule in the nation. The composite record of the Tide's 12 opponents (including Michigan) is an

impressive 87-46 (65.4 per cent) and nine of the 12 teams has a winning record. Bama will have faced eight ranked opponents during the year, which is the most in Bama history. Michigan's schedule was ranked right behind Alabama's, second toughest in the nation. The Wolverines will have faced teams with a composite record of 82-53 (60.7 per cent) and eight teams with winning records.

Alabama is taking a different approach to preparation for this year's bowl game after having been trampled by Virginia Tech, 38-7, in last year's Music City Bowl in Nashville. As is almost always the case in bowl preparation, Bama had to work around the final examinations schedule. The week prior to finals players were excused from practice, though got in a little conditioning work. During finals, Bama was able to work in a handful of practices with workouts through December 21. The last couple of days of work, after examinations, were two-a-day affairs. The team was to break for Christmas, then reassemble to go to

This Is January

In order to get this bowl preview issue to our readers prior to the Orange Bowl on New Year's Day, this January, 2000, issue of 'BAMA was produced and mailed to our readers earlier than usual.

The next issue, the February issue, will be mailed January 28.

Miami on December 26 with regular game-week preparation beginning Monday, December 27 in Miami. Alabama practices were to be at St. Thomas University in North Dade County. Alabama team headquarters is the Wyndham Miami Beach Resort.

DuBose said during the opening week of drills, "We're working around finals because that is the most important thing for our players. Most of our players think they are going to end up in the NFL, but the fact is that most will end up like me, doing something else and football will be over. So earning a degree is the most important thing they can do here."

The Tide head coach said that the two goals for his team for the rest of the year are to "find a way to win" the Orange

Bowl. "The fun is in the winning," he said, quoting former Tide Coach Gene Stallings. "And so we are going to practice and prepare in order to win. But the game is also a reward for the players having a good season, and we want them to have fun in Miami. And the schedule allows plenty of time for meetings, practice, rest and for having fun."

DuBose said that a year ago the Tide had only about 75 per cent of its game plan installed before the Christmas break. Preparation that was to be completed in Nashville was throttled by icy conditions that paralyzed Nashville and shut down practice facilities. DuBose said that this year "We won't have an ice plan, but I don't think we'll need one." However, he said he would have the game plan installed before the Tide leaves for its short holiday.

Additionally, he said, "Last year we spent about as much time getting the team ready for this season as we did for the bowl game. This year we are going to concentrate on getting the team ready to win the Orange Bowl." He said that players who

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Michigan won't see the same old Alabama of the past. The Crimson Tide offense has been changed from a pound-it-out running attack to a mixture of run and pass, and Bama's top passer is sophomore quarterback Andrew Zow.

Barry Fikes Photo

are not part of the playing rotation would get some extra work, but not as much as last year.

Speaking of rotation, DuBose said he would continue with the plan to have quarterbacks Andrew Zow and Tyler Watts alternate series. "I hope they will have the same type game in the Orange Bowl they had in the SEC Championship Game, but if one of them has the hot hand and one of them is having an off-day, we'll go with the hot hand."

With the exception of a handful of players out for the season with injuries, Alabama should be at full strength for the Orange Bowl.

It won't be all sunshine and ocean breezes for the Crimson Tide in Miami. For one, get used to hearing "Hail To The Victors," the familiar Michigan fight song that is tooted incessantly. Then there is the little matter of trying to defeat a strong Michigan team. DuBose said he expects the game to be a physical one.

DuBose has great admiration for Michigan Coach Lloyd Carr, like DuBose a former defensive coordinator who ascended to the head job. Carr has been head coach for five years and has been a member of the Wolverines' coaching staff since 1980.

DuBose said that Michigan is the kind of team that can line up with two tight ends and two backs and run the football or it can spread the field with four or five wide receivers and open things up. In other words, Alabama is trying to look like Michigan and has probably succeeded.

The Wolverines are led by tailback Anthony Thomas (6-2, 225), who rushed for 1257 yards and 16 touchdowns this season. Quarterback Tom Brady (6-5, 211) completed 61 per cent of his passes, 180 of 295 for 16 touchdowns with only six interceptions. He accounted for 2217 passing yards. The top receiver is David Terrell (6-3, 208, who is probably Michigan's top athlete as he is also a back-up cornerback), who had 61 receptions for 888 yards and four touchdowns. However, the receiver Bama fans will be most aware of is Marcus Knight (6-1, 178), who had 36 receptions for 766 yards and six touchdowns. Knight is from Sylacauga and is the half brother of former Tide defensive line star Damiean Jeffries, a member of Bama's 1992 national championship team.

Inside linebacker Ian Gold is the leading tackler for the Wolverines. Outside linebacker James Hall is the sack leader. Although he didn't have an interception this year, cornerback Todd Howard broke up 14 passes.

Tide Offense

SE- 15	Freddie Milons
84	Shamari Buchanan
LT- 60	Chris Samuels
76	Lanis Baxley
LG- 75	Griff Redmill
71	Marco Portis
C- 74	Paul Hogan
58	Alonzo Ephraim
RG- 72	Will Cuthbert
70	Jason McDonald
RT- 65	Dante Ellington
77	Bart Raulston
TE- 72	Terry Jones
38	Shawn Draper
QB- 5	Andrew Zow
14	Tyler Watts
TB- 37	Shaun Alexander
28	Shaun Bohanon
FB- 30	Dustin McClintock
6	Marvin Brown
FL- 80	Jason McAddley
2	Antonio Carter

SPECIALISTS: PUNTER-16 Patrick Morgan; KICKOFF-44 Lane Bearden; PLACEMENT-19 Ryan Pflugner; HOLDER-16 Patrick Morgan; PUNT SNAPPER-93 Bradley Ledbetter; PLACEMENT SNAPPER-93 Bradley Ledbetter; KICKOFF RETURN-15 Freddie Milons, 26 Arvin Richard; PUNT RETURN-15 Freddie Milons

Alabama Facts

Offense: Pro-I
Average Offensive Size
Line: 6-5, 311
Backs & Receivers: 6-1, 214
Offensive Starters By Class
2 seniors, 4 juniors, 4 sophs
1 freshman
Defense: 4-3
Average Defensive Size
Line: 6-4, 286
Linebackers: 6-2, 230
Secondary: 6-0, 189
Defensive Starters By Class
3 seniors, 2 juniors, 3 sophs,
3 freshmen

Wolverines Offense

SE- 1	David Terrell
9	DiAllo Johnson
LT- 79	Jeff Backus
73	Joe Denay
LG- 76	Steve Hutchinson
69	Todd Mossa
C- 67	David Brandt
64	Steve Frazier
RG- 52	Chris Ziemann
78	Jonathan Goodwin
RT- 72	Ben Mast
54	Maurice Williams
TE- 84	Shawn Thompson
81	Bill Seymour
QB- 10	Tom Brady
7	Drew Henson
TB- 32	Anthony Thomas
8	Walter Cross
FB- 36	Aaron Shea
39	Evan Coleman
FL- 85	Marcus Knight
4	Marquise Walker

SPECIALISTS: PUNTER-15 Hayden Epstein; KICKOFF-15 Hayden Epstein; PLACEMENT-15 Hayden Epstein; HOLDER-10 Tom Brady; PUNT SNAPPER-58 Rob Renes; PLACEKICK SNAPPER-58 Rob Renes; KICKOFF RETURN-8 Walter Cross, 32 Anthony Thomas; PUNT RETURN-9 DiAllo Johnson, 85 Marcus Knight

Tide Defense

LE- 55	Kenny King
96	Jarret Johnson
LT- 98	Reggie Grimes
90	Kelvis White
RT- 97	Cornelius Griffin
90	Jamie Carter
RE- 54	Kindal Moorehead
94	Derek Sanders
SLB- 99	Darius Gilbert
1	Chris Horne
MLB- 11	Saleem Rasheed
9	Victor Ellis
WLB- 10	Miguel Merriut
31	Adam Cox
LCB- 21	Milo Lewis
25	Hirchel Bolden
RCB- 4	Gerald Dixon
35	Roberto McBride
SS- 41	Marcus Spencer
24	Tony Dixon
S- 23	Reggie Myles
19	Jason Jones

Michigan Facts

Offense: Pro-I
Average Offensive Size
Line: 6-5, 290
Backs & Receivers: 6-3, 215
Offensive Starters By Class
4 seniors, 4 juniors, 3 sophs
Defense: 3-4
Average Defensive Size
Line: 6-3, 285
Linebackers: 6-2, 232
Secondary: 6-0, 199
Defensive Starters By Class
6 seniors, 1 junior, 2 sophs,
2 freshmen

Wolverines Defense

OLB- 6	Victor Hobson
51	Eric Brackins
DE- 91	Josh Williams
99	Jake Frysinger
NT- 58	Rob Renes
95	Patrick Kratus
DT- 94	Eric Wilson
96	Dave Petruziello
RLB- 56	James Hall
92	Dan Rumishek
ILB- 20	Ian Gold
17	Larry Foote
ILB- 55	Dhani Jones
28	Anthony Jordan
CB- 5	James Whitley
1	David Terrell
CB- 3	Todd Howard
1	David Terrell
SS- 41	Tommy Hendricks
15	DeWayne Patmon
S- 2	Cato Jone
15	DeWayne Patmon

Alabama-Michigan Comparison

TIDE RESULTS (10-2, SEC 8-1)		WOLVERINES RESULTS (9-2, Big Ten 6-2)	
Alabama 28	Vanderbilt 17	Michigan 26	Notre Dame 22
Alabama 37	Houston 10	Michigan 37	Rice 3
Louisiana Tech 29	Alabama 28	Michigan 18	Syracuse 13
Alabama 35	Arkansas 28	Michigan 21	Wisconsin 16
Alabama 40	Florida 39 (OT)	Michigan 38	Purdue 12
Alabama 30	Ole Miss 24	Michigan State 34	Michigan 31
Tennessee 21	Alabama 7	Illinois 35	Michigan 29
Alabama 35	Southern Miss 14	Michigan 34	Indiana 31
Alabama 23	LSU 17	Michigan 37	Northwestern 3
Alabama 19	Mississippi State 7	Michigan 31	Penn State 27
Alabama 28	Auburn 17	Michigan 24	Ohio State 17
SEC Championship Game		TIDE WOLVERINES	
Alabama 34		28.7	29.6
OFFENSE		42	39
Average Points Per Game		23-15-4	20-19-0
Touchdowns		19-26	17-22
Rush-Pass-Other		237	238
Field Goals Made-Attempted		123-102-12	91-128-19
First Downs		2145	1425
Rush-Pass-Penalty		178.8	129.5
Rushing Yards		509	439
Average Yards Rushing Per Game		4.2	3.2
Passing Yards		2378	2808
Average Yards Passing Per Game		198.2	255.3
Pass Attempts		353	390
Pass Completions		198	229
Percentage		56.1	58.7
Had Intercepted		14	8
Average Gain Per Pass		6.7	7.2
Average Gain Per Completion		12.0	12.3
Total Offensive Yards		4523	4233
Average Yards Per Game		376.9	384.8
Average Yards Per Play		5.3	5.1
Kickoff Returns-Yards-Average		23-533-23.2	31-610-19.7
Punt Returns-Yards-Average		32-315-9.8	42-341-8.1
Fumbles-Number Lost		19-8	11-4
Penalties-Yards		92-734	72-538
Punts-Average		56-40.3	63-38.5
Had Blocked		1	1
Possession Down Conversions		90-201	83-191
Efficiency		44.8%	43.5%
DEFENSE		TIDE WOLVERINES	
Average Points Allowed Per Game		19.2	19.4
Touchdowns Allowed		29	26
Rush-Pass-Other		7-19-3	7-17-2
Field Goals Made-Attempted		8-14	11-15
First Downs Allowed		196	184
Rush-Pass-Penalty		56-122-18	75-96-13
Rushing Yards Allowed		904	1266
Average Rushing Per Game		75.3	115.1
Opponent Rushes		335	402
Gain Per Rush		2.7	3.1
Passing Yards Allowed		2664	2425
Average Passing Per Game		222.0	220.5
Opponent Passes		414	336
Opponent Completions		218	171
Percentage		52.7	50.9
Intercepted		16	10
Average Gain Per Pass		6.4	7.2
Average Gain Per Completion		12.2	14.2
Total Offense Allowed		3568	3691
Average Per Game Allowed		297.3	335.5
Average Per Play Allowed		4.8	5.0
Kickoff Returns-Yards-Average		52-1167-22.4	37-751-20.3
Punt Returns-Yards-Average		21-97-4.6	30-305-10.2
Opponent Punts Blocked		1	3
Opponents Fumbles-Lost		19-10	30-12
Opponent Possession Down Conversions		57-176	60-175
Efficiency		32.4%	34.3%

ORANGE BOWL ROSTERS

Alabama Crimson Tide

No	Name, Pos.	Cl	Hgt	Wgt	Exp	Hometown
1	Chris Horne, WLB	Jr	6-0	209	2L	Sandersville, Ga.
2	Antonio Carter, FL	Fr	5-10	180	HS	Tallahassee, Fla.
4	Gerald Dixon, LCB	Fr	6-0	175	HS	Burtonsville, Md.
5	Andrew Zow, QB	So	6-2	221	1L	Lake Butler, Fla.
6	Marvin Brown, FB	So	6-0	238	1L	Hyattsville, Md.
7	Sam Collins, SE	Fr	6-2	179	RS	Fayette
8	Tim Bowens, FL	Sr	6-0	181	3L	Killen
9	Victor Ellis, WLB	So	6-1	231	1L	Chattanooga
10	Miguel Merritt, WLB	Sr	6-1	234	1L	Hopkinsville, Ky.
11	Saleem Rasheed, SLB	Fr	6-2	217	HS	Birmingham
12	Ryan Pflugner, PK	Sr	5-10	187	1L	Sarasota, Fla.
13	Kecalf Bailey, RCB	Jr	5-10	164	2L	Tuscaloosa
14	Tyler Watts, QB	Fr	6-3	220	RS	Pelham
15	Freddie Milons, FL	So	5-10	187	1L	Starkville, Miss.
16	Patrick Morgan, P	Sr	6-0	188	Sq	Birmingham
18	Luke Tucker, QB	Fr	6-0	177	Sq	Fayette
19	Jason Jones, FS	Jr	5-11	183	1L	Tuscaloosa
20	Chris Kemp, PK	Jr	5-9	171	1L	Jacksonville, Fla.
21	Milo Lewis, LCB	Jr	6-0	189	JC	Mtn. View, Calif.
23	Reggie Myles, S	So	5-11	182	1L	Pascagoula, Miss.
24	Tony Dixon, SS-S	Jr	6-1	208	2L	Reform
25	Hirchel Bolden, RCB	Fr	6-0	188	HS	Dothan
26	Arvin Richard, TB	Jr	5-7	178	2L	Atlanta
27	Jeremy Walker, FB	Fr	6-3	259	HS	Prattville
28	Shaun Bohanon, TB	Jr	6-1	227	Sq	Oak Ridge, Tenn.
29	Ahmaad Galloway, TB	Fr	6-0	215	Sq	Millington, Tenn.
30	Dustin McClintock, FB	Jr	6-2	253	2L	Quinlan, Texas
31	Adam Cox, SLB	So	6-0	227	1L	Jasper
32	Phillip Weeks, SS	Fr	6-1	165	RS	Lake Butler, Fla.
33	Shontua Ray, LCB	So	5-10	208	Sq	Montevallo
34	Santonio Beard, TB	Fr	6-1	202	HS	Nashville, Tenn.
35	Roberto McBride, RCB	Fr	5-7	161	HS	Lakeland, Fla.
36	Jay Stubbs, SE	Fr	5-8	176	RS	Las Vegas, Nev.
37	Shaun Alexander, TB	Sr	6-1	214	3L	Florence, Ky.
38	Shawn Draper, TE	Jr	6-3	291	2L	Huntsville
41	Marcus Spencer, SS	Jr	6-1	200	2L	York
43	Gary Barnes, SS	Jr	5-9	208	Sq	Nashville, Tenn.
44	Lane Bearden, P-PK	Fr	6-1	195	RS	Pelham
48	Leslie Williams, RDE	Fr	6-5	205	HS	Stone Mtn., Ga.
54	Kindal Moorehead, RDE	So	6-3	296	1L	Memphis, Tenn.
55	Kenny King, RDE	Fr	6-5	275	HS	Daphne
56	Kenric Lott, RG	Jr	6-5	302	RS	Blackshear, Ga.
58	Alonzo Ephraim, C	Fr	6-1	292	HS	Birmingham
60	Chris Samuels, LT	Sr	6-6	298	3L	Mobile
61	Todd Whitmore, NT	Jr	6-5	294	Sq	Ranburne
65	Dante Ellington, RT	Fr	6-5	344	HS	Leighton
67	Kelvis White, NT	Jr	6-2	302	1L	Courtland
70	Jason McDonald, RG	Sr	6-5	325	3L	Theodore
71	Marieco Portis, LG	Fr	6-2	301	RS	Pritchard
72	Will Cuthbert, RG	Jr	6-5	324	2L	Ft. Pierce, Fla.
74	Paul Hogan, C	Jr	6-4	285	2L	Valdosta, Ga.
75	Griff Redmill, LG	Jr	6-5	304	2L	Jasper
76	Lannis Baxley, LT	Fr	6-7	290	RS	Waynesboro, Ga.
77	Bart Raulston, RT	Fr	6-9	341	RS	Sylvania
80	Jason McAddley, FL	So	6-2	196	1L	Oak Ridge, Tenn.
82	Terry Jones, Jr., TE	So	6-3	264	1L	Tuscaloosa
84	Shamari Buchanan, SE	Sr	6-1	217	3L	Atlanta
89	Theo Sanders, TE	Fr	6-3	236	Sq	Birmingham
90	Jamie Carter, NT	Sr	6-4	348	3L	Philadelphia, Miss.
93	Bradley Ledbetter, SN	Jr	6-3	251	1L	Pelham
94	Derek Sanders, LDT	Fr	6-4	275	RS	Sandersville, Ga.
96	Jarret Johnson, LDT	Fr	6-4	284	HS	Chiefland, Fla.
97	Cornelius Griffin, LDT	Sr	6-3	292	1L	Brundidge
98	Reggie Grimes, LDE	Sr	6-4	285	3L	Nashville, Tenn.
99	Darius Gilbert, SLB	So	6-2	238	1L	Oxford

Michigan Wolverines

No	Name, Pos.	Cl	Hgt	Wgt	Exp	Hometown
1	David Terrell, WR-CB	So	6-3	208	1L	Richmond, Va.
2	Cato June, CB	Fr	6-1	213	RS	Washington, DC
3	Todd Howard, CB	So	5-10	180	1L	Boling Brook, Ill.
4	Marquise Walker, WR	So	6-3	202	1L	Syracuse, N.Y.
5	James Whitley, CB	Jr	5-11	188	2L	Norfolk, Va.
6	Victor Hobson, OLB	Fr	6-1	235	RS	Mt. Laurel, N.J.
7	Drew Henson, QB	So	6-4	218	1L	Brighton
8	Walter Cross, RB	So	5-11	201	1L	Ft. Washington, Md.
9	DiAllo Johnson, WR	Sr	6-3	201	2L	Detroit
10	Tom Brady, QB	Sr	6-5	211	2L	San Mateo, Calif.
13	Jason Kapsner, QB	Jr	6-6	222	1L	Eden Prairie, Minn.
14	Dan Williams, CB	Jr	6-0	190	Sq	Temperance
15	DeWayne Patmon, FS	Jr	6-0	190	2L	San Diego, Calif.
17	Larry Foote, ILB	So	6-1	226	1L	Detroit
19	Ronald Bellamy, WR	Fr	6-0	179	HS	New Orleans
20	Ian Gold, ILB	Sr	6-1	220	3L	Belleville
22	Kevin Bryant, WR	Sr	6-0	182	3L	Farmington Hills
23	Cory Sargent, P	Jr	6-3	209	Sq	South Lyon
24	Charles Drake, RB	Fr	6-1	183	HS	Los Angeles
25	Hayden Epstein, PK-P	So	6-2	200	1L	Cardiff, Calif.
26	Julius Curry, FS	Fr	6-0	186	RS	Detroit
27	Jeff Smokevitch, ILB	Sr	6-0	230	1L	B'ham, Mich.
28	Anthony Jordan, LB	So	6-0	215	1L	Jersey City, N.J.
31	Kenneth Jackson, FS	Sr	5-10	182	3L	Houston, Texas
32	Anthony Thomas, RB	Jr	6-2	225	2L	Winfield, La.
34	Phil Brabbs, PK	Fr	6-1	180	HS	Midland
35	B.J. Askew, RB	Fr	6-3	206	HS	Cincinnati, Ohio
36	Aaron Shea, FB	Sr	6-5	251	3L	Ottawa, Ill.
39	Evan Coleman, FB	So	6-0	252	1L	Houston, Texas
40	Eric Rosel, OLB	So	6-3	232	1L	Liberal, Kas.
41	Tommy Hendricks, SS	Sr	6-2	216	3L	Houston, Texas
42	Tate Schanski, DB	Sr	5-11	195	3L	Perry
45	Jeff DelVerne, PK	Jr	5-11	200	Sq	Sylvania, Ohio
46	Andy Sechler, OLB	Jr	6-1	233	1L	Union City
49	Matt Johnson, SS	Sr	5-10	189	Sq	New Buffalo
50	Joe Sgroi, LB	Fr	5-11	204	RS	Plymouth
51	Eric Brackins, ILB	So	6-2	233	1L	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
52	Chris Ziemann, OL	Sr	6-7	295	3L	Aurora, Ill.
54	Maurice Williams, OL	Jr	6-5	297	2L	Detroit
55	Dhani Jones, ILB	Sr	6-2	231	3L	Potomac, Md.
56	James Hall, RLB	Sr	6-3	259	3L	New Orleans
58	Rob Renes, NT	Sr	6-1	290	3L	Holland
59	Grady Brooks, OLB	Jr	6-2	263	2L	Dallas, Texas
64	Steve Frazier, OL	Sr	6-4	290	2L	Kingwood, Texas
67	David Brandt, OL	Jr	6-4	297	2L	Jenison
69	Todd Mossa, OL	So	6-3	296	Sq	Darien, Conn.
72	Ben Mast, OL	So	6-4	291	Sq	Massillion, Ohio
73	Joe Denay, OL	Fr	6-7	291	RS	Bay City
75	Adam Adkins, OL	So	6-3	295	1L	Troy
76	Steve Hutchinson, OL	Jr	6-5	298	2L	Coral Springs, Fla.
78	Jonathan Goodwin, OL	Jr	6-4	290	Sq	Columbia, S.C.
79	Jeff Backus, OL	Jr	6-6	298	2L	Norcross, Ga.
81	Bill Seymour, TE	So	6-3	255	1L	Granger, Ind.
83	Ben Joppru, TE	Fr	6-4	247	RS	Wayzata, Minn.
84	Shawn Thompson, TE	So	6-4	255	1L	Saginaw
85	Marcus Knight, WR	Sr	6-1	178	3L	Sylacauga, Ala.
89	Deitan Dubuc, TE	Fr	6-4	255	RS	Fabreville, Quebec
91	Josh Williams, DT	Sr	6-4	279	3L	Houston, Texas
92	Dan Rumishek, DL	Fr	6-3	261	RS	Addison, Ill.
93	Jason Ptak, DT	Jr	6-2	286	Sq	Wyandotte
94	Eric Wilson, DL	Jr	6-4	285	2L	Monroe
95	Patrick Kratus, NT	Sr	6-3	266	3L	Rocky River, Ohio
96	Dave Petruziello, DE	Fr	6-4	280	RS	Mentor, Ohio
97	Shawn Lazarus, DE	Fr	6-3	267	RS	Canal Fulton, Ohio
99	Jake Frysinger, DE	Jr	6-4	278	2L	Grosselle

Alabama Man Will Lead The Tide

by Kirk McNair

Appointment as director of athletics is culmination of career serving Alabama

It was one of those things that seemed at the same time both destined to be and sure not to be. Mal Moore, a player at Alabama in the early 1960s, a key assistant coach through most of the glory years under Coach Paul Bryant and under Gene Stallings, and an administrator for the past five years, wanted very much to be his alma mater's athletics director. On November 23 University President Dr. Andrew Sorenson made that appointment.

Moore said later that he almost didn't apply for the job he had first sought in 1996, when it went to Bob Bockrath. Bockrath was ousted in September and Moore emerged along with a couple of other Alabama alumni as top candidates. Although many believe Sorenson wanted Dave Hart, the former Tide basketball player who is now athletics director at Florida State, Hart reportedly was not interested in going through committee interviews. Wright Waters, commissioner of the Sun Belt Conference, withdrew late in the process, citing the length of the search. Moore was convinced by Gene Marsh, faculty representative for athletics and vice chairman of the search committee, to seek the position.

Moore, a native of Dozier who was to celebrate his 60th birthday December 19, earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from The University. His professional life was spent primarily in coaching, first under Bryant from the mid-1960s until Bryant's retirement in 1982. He was assistant head coach at Notre Dame, 1983-85, then joined Stallings with the St. Louis/Phoenix Cardinals of the NFL. When Stallings was named Bama's head coach in 1990, Moore accompanied him to Tuscaloosa. Following the 1993 season, Moore became a full-time administrator. Much of his time has been spent speaking to various Alabama alumni and support groups and his rapport with the Alabama "family" is considered one of his primary strengths.



Mal Moore has been a part of The University of Alabama Athletics Department for the better part of 40 years. This year he was named Bama's director of athletics.

Kent Gidley Photo

Moore faced a relatively quick dilemma as director of athletics. Alabama was up for both the Orange Bowl, which was the preferred choice of Alabama coaches, players and fans, and for the Fiesta Bowl. Moore fought for the Orange Bowl, even though his daughter, Heather Cook, is a former Fiesta Bowl queen and now a member of the Fiesta Bowl committee.

Sorenson said in naming Moore, "We knew from the beginning we wanted an athletics director with solid, responsible experience in intercollegiate athletics administration. Our job description emphasized success, experience, and integrity. Coach Moore, a distinguished alumnus of The University of Alabama, is an excellent choice."

The new athletics director will earn a base salary of \$212,600 with numerous bonus opportunities. The initial contract extends through June 30, 2002.

Moore said, "I am so very proud to have the opportunity to lead an athletics department that I love so much, and I look forward to working with all the constituencies within The University community. The University of Alabama has meant a great deal to me and my family, and I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead."

Finus Gaston, who served as interim athletics director, will remain on staff as executive athletics director.

Here are the prepared remarks of Moore at the announcement of his appointment as director of athletics:

"Dr. Sorenson, everyone knows the huge responsibility you have as president of The University.

"I also know the passion that surrounds athletics here and recognize the possible difficulties in blending an athletics program into the overall needs and goals of a university.

"Today I am deeply appreciative and I thank you and the members of your search committee for this opportunity, and pledge my efforts to help you to continue to achieve that blending.

"I know, expect, and appreciate that I will be held to this.

"We have a history of champions here, including football giants—Coach Wallace Wade, Coach Frank Thomas, Coach Gene Stallings, and my personal mentor and benefactor, Coach Paul Bryant, about whom an insufficient million words of praise have already been uttered. And there were many other great coaches in many sports: Crisp, Drew, Sewell, Campbell, Newton, Sanderson, Dee, Rehling, Gambril, and on and on.

"We have also enjoyed the skills and efforts of the thousands of young men and women who have competed here.

"But University of Alabama athletics is not merely a reservoir of memories; it is a fast-moving stream. We have champions here and now—wonderful young students and their coaches: Sarah Patterson, about whom the only championship question is "How many?"; Jim Wells, with four of the past five SEC baseball tournament championships; Mark Gottfried, on his way to testing his coach's records; Rick Moody, an NCAA tournament regular; and all of the others.

"And we have Mike DuBose, the man I believe will be Alabama's first national championship football coach in the twenty-first century.

"I have had the good fortune to be associated with seven national championship football teams at The University of Alabama. In the matters of funding, facilities, and NCAA compliance, The University has my earnest commitment to do whatever is necessary to move us to the top in all sports. But our higher goal will remain having all athletes here become championship citizens."

DuBose Credits Them For Success

by Kirk McNair

More than playing ability goes into championships

Alabama Head Football Coach Mike DuBose is known for a number of things, one of which his lavish sharing of praise. All good things for this Alabama football team, to hear the Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year tell it, are the results of others, including the assistant coaches, the band, the fans, etc. The players, naturally, come in for much of the credit. And DuBose has been particularly complimentary of the senior members of his football team.

Coaches traditionally depend on their seniors. After all, those are usually the most experienced players. But even more than on-the-field performance, seniors are counted

on for leadership, both on and off the field.

DuBose has oft-noted that this group—one he has pointed out is small in numbers but high in quality—has been noteworthy in its effectiveness. He has praised the group (for the most part inherited from his predecessor, Gene Stallings) for its ability to overcome hardships of varying descriptions and to keep focused on the job of winning championships. The team has won championships and the seniors have earned their plaudits.

Some of those players will rank among the best in storied Crimson Tide history. Over the years it was believed that Alabama had the best college guard of all time in John Hannah and the best college center of all time in Dwight Stephenson. Now many, including DuBose, believe that Alabama has had the best college tackle of all time in Chris Samuels of Mobile. He was certainly the best this year as he was presented the Outland Trophy, given by the Football Writers Association of America to the top lineman in the country. He was also

winner of the Jacobs Award as the top blocker in the SEC (as voted by the league's coaches) and a consensus All-America.

As good as Samuels has been, he is not the most celebrated member of the 1999 Crimson Tide. That honor goes to his fellow offensive co-captain, Shaun Alexander of Florence, Kentucky. The Tide's star tailback, was named the SEC Player of the Year by unanimous vote of the league's coaches. Alexander led the SEC in rushing with 1,399 yards while also setting a conference record with 24 touchdowns scored this season. He also led the conference in scoring with 144 points.

The defensive captains this year are both junior college transfers. Tackle Cornelius Griffin of Brundidge, a second team All-SEC performer, and linebacker Miguel Merritt of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, who came to Alabama as a strong safety, headed up a defense that improved each week.

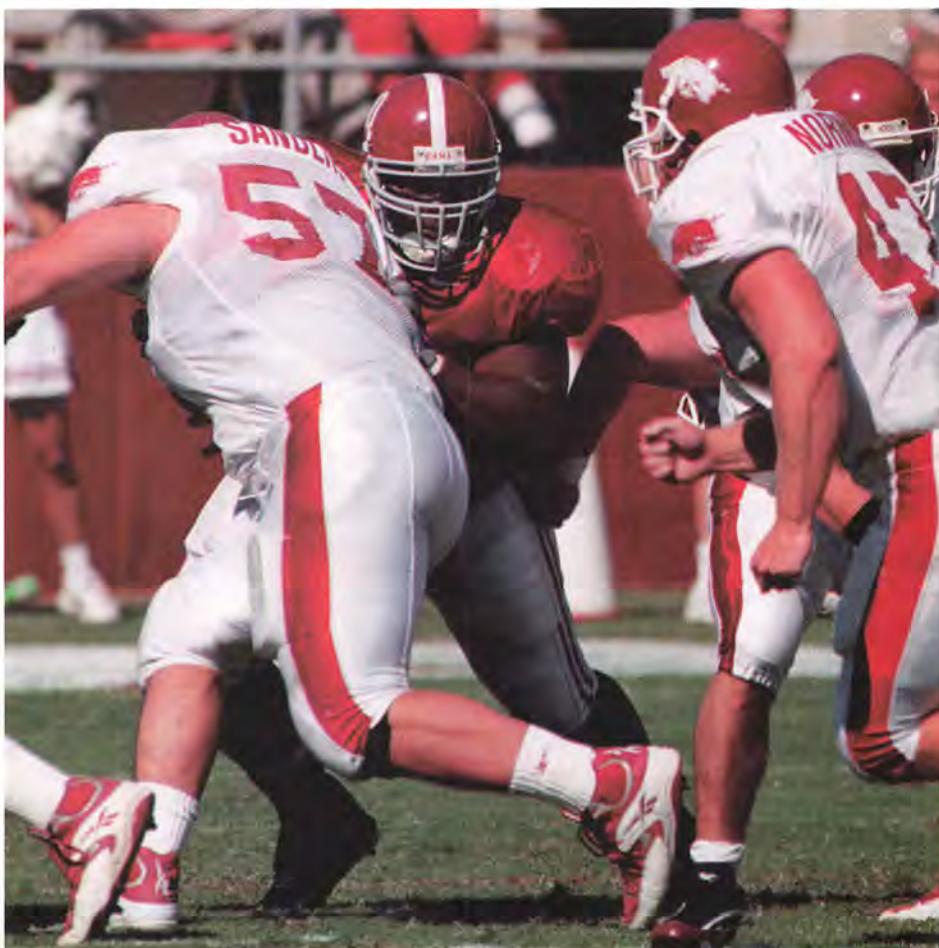
The captain of the special teams was place-kicker Ryan Pflugner of Sarasota, Florida.

In announcing the captains prior to the beginning of the season, DuBose said, "The thing that was impressive was not only the quality of this group of captains, but also the fact that all 10 of our [scholarshipped] seniors received votes."

Typically, a number of Alabama seniors will have football after the Orange Bowl. National Football League rosters are dotted with former Crimson Tide players and some of these seniors will undoubtedly have the opportunity to play professionally.

Four of them—Alexander, Samuels, Griffin and wide receiver Shamari Buchanan of Atlanta—will make their professional debuts in this year's Senior Bowl in Mobile in February. No matter what Buchanan does, it is unlikely he will do anything that tops his game-clinching touchdown reception to wrap up the SEC Western Division championship against Mississippi State this season.

All of the seniors will have special memories of playing at Alabama, but it's unlikely any will have any better remembrance than will defensive lineman Reggie Grimes of Nashville. Grimes had one of those highlight reel plays in Alabama's SEC Championship



Jamie Carter spent his time in the trenches as a four-year defensive linemen letterman for the Crimson Tide. Barry Fikes Photo

Game victory over Florida. Grimes grabbed a ball that had been batted by freshman Jarret Johnson and chugged 38 yards with the interception return that put the final nail in the Gators' coffin.

Jason McDonald of Theodore, a starter for much of his career, was relegated to back-up duty as a senior, but he played a key role in reserve.

Canary Knight of Tallahassee was a back-up in his first season at Bama after transferring from junior college. He had moved into a starting role early this season at linebacker, but then found his real niche as a specialist, the "rush" defensive end in passing situations. However, Knight suffered a season-ending knee injury against LSU.

Tim Bowens of Killen joined Buchanan as a starting wide receiver through most of the season as Alabama ordinarily opened each game with four wide receivers. Although over-shadowed by Bama's younger receivers, Bowens earned a reputation (and particular affection from DuBose) for getting the most out of his ability and for being one of those courageous wide receivers who can be

counted on to make the tough catch over the middle.

Jamie Carter of Philadelphia, Mississippi, has had to fight on two fronts throughout his college football career, competing for playing time in the defensive line and also battling the bulge. He has been a key performer, particularly after injuries hit the defensive line late in the 1999 season.

Like Pflugner, Patrick Morgan of Birmingham walked on at Alabama and finally earned the special teams job as Bama's punter.

Alabama puts a lot of stock in walk-on players, and this year's senior group includes a number who toiled for Bama without benefit of scholarship.

For the most part, the walk-ons are not known to the average Tide fan. However, they are known to their teammates and coaches. They perform on the scout team, or as DuBose calls it the "look team," because he wants it to provide "the look" of the opponent. The scout team is another group that DuBose has praised for its contributions to success.

Gary Barnes of Nashville, a safety, is one of

those players who received occasional playing time. Most did not. Among this year's group of scout team players are quarterback Brad Beard of Pleasant Grove; flanker Clary-Webb Butler of Charleston, South Carolina; quarterback Lee Chambers of Enterprise; fullback Myles Christian of Tuscaloosa; place-kicker Chad Floyd of Cullman; flanker Martin Glover of Sumiton; linebacker Ross Gunnells of Aliceville; offensive tackle Steven Holloway of Hoover; fullback Alex Malone of Huntsville; fullback Joey McSorley of Birmingham; quarterback/tight end Marc Mollicone of Fall River, Massachusetts; quarterback Monte Poe of Nashville; offensive guard Chris Ray of Piedmont; flanker James Sullen of Tuskegee; and wide receiver Michael Vickery of Mobile.

Also behind the scenes, but critical to football operations, are student managers and trainers. The senior members of those staffs are managers Brother Anderson of Birmingham and Will Gill of Bogalusa, Louisiana, and trainers Jennifer Snell of Slocumb, April Huff of Dothan, and Jeff Mullins of Ooltewah, Tennessee.

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Kelvis White:

He Understands Alabama Football

by Chris Olds

Defensive lineman wants next year to be a big one

While many college athletes have a problem in trying to strike a balance between academics and athletics, Alabama's Kelvis White has had plenty of assistance. His dad is a high school football coach turned principal, his mother a teacher, his brother a former teammate turned football coach, and his sister yet another teacher.

Kelvis White is a junior defensive tackle, a player with limited playing time in his four-year career, but who was thrust into the starting line-up late this season after injuries rattled the Tide defense in its 23-17 win over LSU.

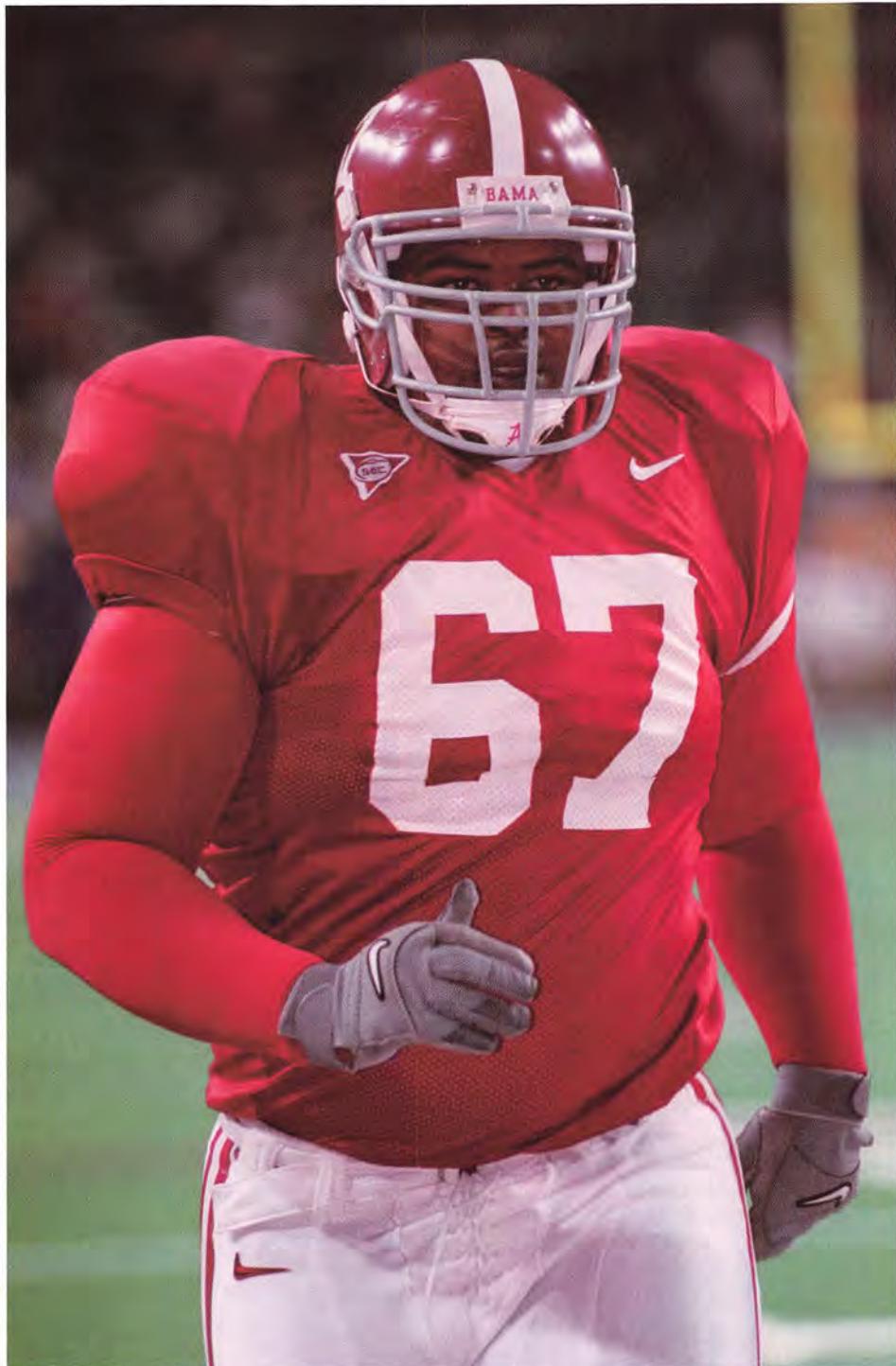
"I will graduate this summer in physical education, and I want to teach and be a coach like my brother and my dad," said White, a 6-4, 291-pound product of Courtland High School. "I have an extra year (next season) after redshirting to work on my master's in administration to be a principal after coaching like my dad. My mom (Mollie) gets on me about academics and she'll call me asking about that, and then I get on the phone with my dad and he's always asking me about football."

Kelvis' father, Louis White, coached the Courtland Chiefs—a program that won Alabama Class 1A titles in 1988, 1989, 1990, 1995 and 1999—until this year, when he retired from coaching to serve as assistant principal. White's older brother, Laron, was a four-year Tide letterman from 1993-96 and a redshirt on Alabama's 1992 national championship team. Laron is now a high school offensive line coach in Decatur.

Gaining substantial playing experience relatively late in his career and on the eve of spring practice for his senior season, White said he hopes to be in the running for a starting job next fall, but said he knows he has to work hard in the spring.

"I need to lose some weight since I am heavier this year than I have ever been," White said. "Everything has worked out pretty good, but cardiovascular work is something I need to get better on, too."

White said not playing as much as he would like to—a common complaint among non-starters—is something that doesn't take away from the playing time he has gotten. "I am just happy to get the opportunity," White said. "(Junior defensive tackle) Kenny (Smith) and (current senior) Cornelius (Griffin) are two great players in front of me and they are going to play on Sundays one day. I'm not mad about (playing time) be-



Kelvis White moved from back-up offensive lineman to back-up defensive lineman, the opposite move of that his brother Laron made at Bama. Kelvis is glad the Tide is back in title contention and wants the 2000 season to be a national championship year.

Butch Dill Photo

cause they are very good ball players.

"I know my job is to go in when somebody goes down or needs a breather," he said. "When Kenny (Smith) went down, they asked me to step it up and I feel I have done

a pretty good job. My goal is to try to get a starting position next year, but I will play my role and do whatever they need me to do. My main goal is to play more and always improve."

Coming out of high school with an older brother already playing college football, and with parents who are devout game attendees, White's natural choice was Alabama. However, White said he wasn't heavily recruited with the Tide's NCAA scholarship reductions in 1996, while his parents were split about helping in the decision.

"My dad wanted me to play here, but he didn't put any pressure on me," he said. "My mom, though, she told me she wanted me to come here because she's a big Alabama fan and she's been loving it to death. I didn't want to put her in a situation where she'd see Laron play and then come somewhere else to see me play."

White said he visited Notre Dame, but had a surprise waiting when he returned home.

"When I got off the plane from my visit to Notre Dame, Mom was at the airport and said, 'Alabama offered it to you. I knew it was coming.'"

White signed with Alabama under Coach Gene Stallings after earning all-state honors as a junior and senior starting on both offense and defense. When Bryant-Denny Saturdays arrived that fall, Laron was a regular on the Alabama offensive line while little-known Kelvis was a redshirt on the practice squad.

"I came to all of my brother's games and knew all of the coaches, but they didn't know my name," Kelvis said. "They knew me as 'Little Laron' my first year, but we are totally different. I'm more outspoken and talk a lot while he's more quiet and doesn't say much."

Part of the adjustment, White said, was coming from a small school which may not have had the advantages of some 5A and 6A schools.

"It took me a year to get ready, and coming from a small high school, where everybody was smaller than me, was different," White said. "Coming from 1A, it takes some time to adjust. It's about the opportunity and I've

gotten it. You don't see many Division I players from small schools."

After a season as an offensive guard for the scout team, and a freshman season in 1997 playing against only Houston and Tennessee, White said he approached current Tide Coach Mike DuBose during three-a-day practices before last season about a change to defense. "I never really did get comfortable on the offensive line," White said, even though he had moved up to second on the depth chart.

The change from offense to defense is nothing new for the White brothers. Laron came to Alabama as a defensive lineman, and finished his Tide career on offense after he, too, played both ways in high school.

"He (Laron) came in on defense, but he switched, too," White said. "We just did it backwards."

White made the switch to nose tackle and started against Vanderbilt in 1998 before playing in seven more games. He totaled nine tackles en route to earning his first letter.

"I played a lot, and I wasn't worried about starting," White said. "I just wanted to play, and I got the opportunity and made the best of it. I really learned a lot. I prefer being on defense because I wasn't comfortable sitting back and waiting for them to adjust. It's more fun to get after the ball."

This season, White collected his first sack against Houston and totaled seven tackles while playing in 10 of Alabama's 11 regular-season games, assuring himself of another letter for the Southeastern Conference champions. With his 22nd birthday on November 22, White said Alabama's 28-17 win over Auburn two days earlier was an early gift, vindication for the disappointment of the 1997 Iron Bowl, an 18-17 Auburn win played on his actual birth date.

"It was a big win this year," he said. "No team in our history had gone down there and

won before. We knew it was going to be a tough game, but we really wanted to win and have bragging rights for the rest of the year."

"Down in Auburn (in 1997) that was a sad, sad locker room. This year it was a really good birthday."

Despite younger players having more extensive playing time coming into spring practice, White said he hopes to bring leadership to the defense, which will be losing seniors Cornelius Griffin and Jamie Carter.

"As far as the defensive line, we have a young group heading into the spring. I just want to be a leader for the guys. I joke around a lot in practice, but I want to be serious and have the team go out there and contend for that national championship. It's been a long time since I used to win rings in high school, so hopefully we'll win the bowl this year and win the big one next year."

"When you realize this is it, that there's no more next year, then if I don't do it this year it won't happen," he said. "I just want to get in the weight room and get faster, slim up some and have the best season I can and do it to the best of my ability."

Through White's first four seasons at Alabama, he has been through a coaching change, a dip away from Alabama's winning tradition, and even a change in Bryant-Denny Stadium with the expansion for 1998. White has been part of the rebirth of a winning program and the Tide's first trip to the SEC Championship game since his redshirt season.

For now, though, White said he is aware of where he and the program has been and where it has come. But now, he said, it's time to focus on next year.

"When I first got here my freshman year we had a winning tradition and everybody had a lot of confidence. Coming into that next season was rough and disappointing," White said. "Now, we are starting to get that feeling we had my freshman year, and we are playing with a lot of confidence. We are back where we are supposed to be."



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Shaun Bohanon:

Good Play In 1999 Gives Look At Future

by J. E. Lisby

He has taken advantage of opportunities, now can look forward to 2000

It was the last week of October and the Alabama football team was preparing for the next game against a tough Southern Miss team, a team especially noted for its defense. And most Alabama fans were worried. Seemingly with good reason. Barely more than half way through what would turn out to be the nation's toughest schedule, the Tide was 5-2 and coming off a Tuscaloosa loss to Tennessee. Worst of all, the team had lost both its starting quarterback and Heisman candidate tailback to severely sprained ankles.

The ranks of the worried, however, didn't include Shaun Bohanon. Nor, apparently, did they include the Tide coaches.

During that week, amidst the organized chaos that constitutes football practices, Alabama coaches could be heard instructing the players with a word here and a shouted command there. But oddly, as the offensive assistants passed Bohanon (known simply as "Bo" on the team), each would comment in passing, "Twenty carries, Bo, twenty carries." First from Running Backs Coach Ivy Williams, then from Offensive Coordinator Neil Callaway and even from the head coach came that phrase, "Twenty carries."

Bohanon knew that the spotlight was on him, and the question of whether Alabama could survive without Shaun Alexander anchoring its offense.

His response to the uncertainty was to make a bold guarantee to his head coach. "I told Coach DuBose that if he gave me 25 carries, I'd promise them 200 yards," Bohanon explained. "It was fun, just something to keep my mind focused on the game instead of worrying about my first start."

Fun indeed. Bohanon didn't make good on his promise in his first game starting, but no one was complaining after he rushed for 104 yards on 28 carries with two touchdowns.

Shaun Bohanon got his first start against Southern Miss and responded with over 100 yards rushing and two touchdowns, including this one.

Barry Fikes Photo

His performance didn't exactly make Alabama fans want to forget the "other Shaun." But it did calm fears that this year's squad was a one-man show and helped propel the Tide on its season-ending drive to the SEC title.

Bohanon felt terrible that his close friend was injured, but he understood (and seized) the opportunity. "Obviously, I didn't want Shaun to get hurt," Bohanon said. "But it gave the coaches a chance to see that they had a consistent back for next year. Getting that yardage against a tough defense helped my confidence a lot. And now the coaches know they have somebody they can put in who can play."

The message wasn't missed. "We have every confidence in the world in Bo," Callaway said. "We don't worry about when he comes into the game. We know what he can do."

And from DuBose, "He was just waiting on an opportunity. Every time Bo's been given that opportunity, he's stepped up and played big for us. It's a comfort as a coach to know that we've got a quality guy in Bo that we can go to. He's a talented football player."

With the hoopla associated with Shaun Alexander's record-breaking senior season and run for the Heisman, his backup has sometimes been overlooked, at least by many fans. Of course, sharing the same first name hasn't made it any easier for Bohanon to establish his own identity, separate from his friend and roommate. However, once Bo takes the handoff and turns upfield, there's no mistaking that Tide fans are watching a different Shaun.

"I'm more of an inside, North-South runner (from Alexander)," Bohanon said. "I love to just pound it. I enjoy running off-tackle, just inside, hard, tough yards. I really don't try to make people miss. I'd rather run you over instead of dodging."

Interestingly, Bohanon has transformed himself into a power back since he's been at The Capstone. In high school he most often used his speed to run around would-be tacklers. "In high school I was faster than most guys and it was easy for me to run outside," he said. "It was just toss left, toss right and run. As you start playing in college, you realize that everyone is just as fast and you've got guys who are way stronger. I had to adjust. Now, I'm a lot more physical. Working with Coach Jones (Terry Jones, Bama's



Although Shaun Bohanon came to Alabama as a running back noted for his ability to outrun defenders, the tailback has since become a tough inside runner who gets his yards pounding between the tackles.

Barry Fikes Photo

strength and conditioning coach) has helped me get stronger."

Bohanon has speed, size and strength, but his road game roommate doesn't believe any of those are his most important asset. Not even close. "Shaun Bohanon has been more important to our team this year than people realize," Shaun Alexander said. "He'll crack a joke if people need a laugh. And he'll make a play when people don't expect it. He's always willing to step in and do what's needed. Most importantly, though, he's unselfish. He was in for a series in the Auburn game and didn't get a single carry. When I mentioned it to him, he said, 'Don't worry about it. We won.' It's good to have players whose only thing is to go out and do what they can to help the team win."

As the infrequently used backup to a player being pushed for national honors, it

would be normal to expect some jealousy. Didn't happen. The two Shauns are good friends both on and off the field. "I've learned a lot from Shaun (Alexander) on the sideline and watching him play," Bohanon said. "He talks to me every day in practice about what I can do to get better. We room together the nights before games and we talk and kid around with our game-day rituals."

Alexander's friendly coaching along with the more serious variety provided by Ivy Williams helped Bohanon toward his goal of becoming a complete back.

"If you want to be able to call yourself a complete back, you've got to be able to do everything," Bohanon explained. "Run routes out of the backfield, catch the ball, pick up blitzes and blocking. Plus you've got to protect the football. You can't have it out

flopping around. All those skills will help you get a chance to play on the next level. Picking up blitzes and protecting the quarterback is the main difference between getting in the game and sitting on the bench. If you don't do your job, your quarterback can get hurt. But if you can do that, you'll get a chance to play."

Blitz protection, blocking and pass receiving along with learning a new offense are the main hurdles high school phenoms must get over to earn playing time in college. "I struggled some at the beginning," Bohanon admitted. "I wasn't really mentally ready for our offense. Learning the offense gives you confidence, but it takes time. You're going to make mistakes, but as time went on I caught on to what we were trying to do."

Playing football at a big-time school like Alabama isn't easy. The players who wear that crimson jersey work hard for the honor. And not just on the practice field. "Most people probably don't understand what we go through," Bohanon said. "We practice every day and when we're through we're exhausted. Then we have to go to class the next morning and make our grades so we'll be able to play. You're up from eight in the morning until at least 11 at night. It's a full day of work. It's hard getting through the day during football season."

"Game days are great," Bohanon said. "But when you wake up the next morning after a game, that's probably one of the worst feelings you can have. During the game you don't feel anything. But the next day after a physical game you've got bruises from your head to your toes. I try to get into the warm whirlpool for awhile to get the soreness out before Monday's practice. This is a physical game. Week to week you go out and your body gets worn down from the pounding."

Despite the difficulties, Bohanon is proud of what he's accomplished so far—as an athlete and a student. Coming out of high school his standardized test score was low which meant he was admitted as a "partial qualifier." He could practice with the team his freshman year, but couldn't play. The idea of dedicating the first year to solidifying academics is sound, but unless Bo can graduate before the 2001 season, next year will be his last. "It would be nice if I could look forward to four full years," he said. "You definitely want to get all the opportunities you can so you can help your chances of going to the next level."

Being a student-athlete at Alabama and meeting the demands from teachers, fans and coaches is a challenge. But it's one that Bohanon relishes. "It would be easier to play football somewhere else," he admitted. "People wouldn't expect as much as they do

here. (At Alabama) people look up to us. Kids will watch whatever you do if you're wearing that Tide jersey. Sometimes it can get frustrating. You have people grabbing on you and pulling, wanting an autograph. But it's great to know that they're there and that they acknowledge what we've done."

And on balance, the good far outweighs the bad. Playing football for Alabama is something that Bohanon wishes every Bama fan could experience. "Running onto the field at Bryant-Denny before a game is a feeling that you really can't describe," he said. "It's unbelievable that all those people are out there cheering for you. When you make a big play, the crowd responds almost immediately. During the play you don't hear much. Your adrenaline is pumping and when you break that first tackle you see the end zone and all you're thinking about is scoring. But as soon as the play is over and you're walking back to the huddle, you hear the crowd as the sound washes over you."

Bohanon is also anxious to share with fans what it's like during the game.

Like most players, he admits to butterflies

before the game starts. But once the action begins and he takes that first hit, the nervousness disappears. According to Bohanon, in the huddle before a play there's very little talking except by the quarterback. Sometimes a guy will crack a joke (a role usually played this year by Chris Samuels) to keep everybody loose, but it's mainly all business.

During the play itself, the action moves at blazing speed and usually ends brutally. "As the play is about to start, all I'm thinking is please let this play work," Bohanon explained. "During the play, you don't think. You just react. Later when you're watching the film, you may think, 'Pretty good move!' but not during the play."

And of course trash-talking between players does take place. But as Bohanon tells it, running backs are rarely involved. "There's more talking up front," he said. "The big guys jaw a bit. That's more of a matchup thing and defensive backs and wide receivers do it, too. But running back is a little different. A defender who gets a big lick on you sometimes gets up with, 'Aw, I got you that time.' But personally I just get up and go back to the huddle."

That attitude exemplifies Shaun Bohanon, the athlete and person. He approaches most things with a quiet confidence that can belie the fierce determination inside. Bohanon has enjoyed backing up Alexander and wouldn't trade the experience for anything. However, while he acknowledges Alexander's obvious value to this year's team, Bohanon feels confident about the Tide's future.

"I believe that even though Shaun Alexander is going to be gone, we'll definitely be okay at running back next year," Bohanon said. "We've got a lot of talented backs, Ahmaad Galloway, Brandon Miree, Santonio Beard and myself. Next year will be a great season."

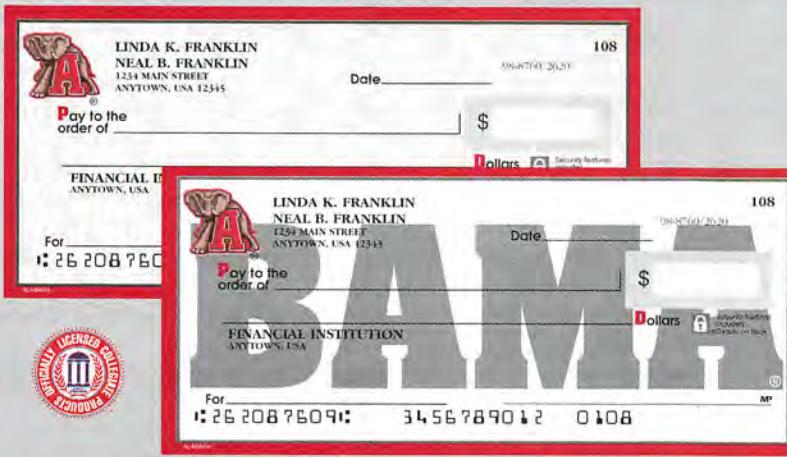
"Personally, I'm going to work hard this off-season to make myself stronger and faster. I want to be a different back. Bigger, stronger and faster with more muscle mass. I'll have the same style, but I want to be even better."

If the depth chart remains the same, next season will be Bohanon's chance in the lime-light. And as he talks about the future, if you listen closely you can almost hear the words echoing in his mind. "Twenty carries, Bo. Twenty carries."

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Although Young, Potential Is There

by Donna Fromme

Both men's and women's teams expect to achieve high aspirations for 2000 season

Among the twelve names that make up The University of Alabama's millennium men's golf roster are a U.S. Amateur participant, an NCAA qualifier, the son of a PGA golfer who inherited a swing that is bringing home his own national titles, a Junior U.S. Amateur participant, and a couple of international golfers who were ranked among the best in their countries in junior golf.

And if they all live up to their talent potential, the Crimson Tide will be celebrating its entrance into the 21st century with a team trip to NCAA postseason play in May. "On paper, this certainly is an impressive group, one of my more physically talented groups," said Crimson Tide Men's Golf Coach Dick Spybey. "The key this year is to begin molding a group that relies on one another and believes in each other, one that has true team chemistry. In my experience, the most successful groups have been the ones that had that."

And if anyone knows what makes a successful squad, it would be Spybey. His teams have advanced to NCAA postseason play—in the toughest region to get a bid—six times since 1991. And Alabama was represented a seventh time by an individual.

Leading Alabama's charge is that individual and Bama's most internationally-experienced golfer, junior Jan Are Larsen. Larsen took his first dip into the collegiate golf world last season, and it was a good one. His 73.03 stroke average in 33 rounds of play was fourth best in the Southeastern Conference, a performance that netted him All-SEC honors. In just his first season of collegiate golf, he advanced to the NCAA tournament, participating in the East Regional as an individual, one of only three from 120 teams in the East who received an invitation. The Sarpsborg, Norway, native had a 73.89 stroke average in play last fall and produced four top-10 finishes.

"He brings to the table many positive things," said Spybey, the NCAA Coach of the Year in 1992. "He's very mature. He didn't come right out of high school to the

collegiate ranks. He sat out and gained experience in life, so his age, 23, helps him. Second, he's got great physical ability and he's not afraid to use it. He's a very aggressive player. Add aggressiveness to talent, and that produces some low scores."

But Spybey and Larsen know college golf success takes a team effort, and both no doubt like the team that Alabama has put together in 1999-2000. The veterans include Anniston's Freeman Fite, a junior golf All-America who had two top 25 finishes for Alabama last season; 1999 U.S. Amateur participant Wes Vance; U.S. Junior Amateur participant Nic Balanis; and, among others, Wesley Pate, the son of former Alabama golfer and 1975 U.S. Amateur champion, Jerry Pate. Wesley is following his dad's footsteps to Alabama and to success on the course as he won the 1998 Future Masters, junior golf's national gathering of talent.

"Freeman Fite is a rising junior who has had a lot of experience thus far with playing time and we expect continued improvement from him," Spybey said. "He has a lot of belief in his talent. With his improvement, he should be another leader for us," said Spybey. "Among our new guys, Wesley Pate not only in name alone but in all areas seems to stand out. We're so very excited to have Wesley with us with his background and his talent, but also look forward to a closer relationship with his famous father."

Alabama played four tournaments this past fall, and it was no surprise that Larsen had the low stroke average. But tied with him was a freshman, Balanis, who also averaged 73.9 in four appearances. It was a productive fall for the Tide. Spybey went deep into the lineup, playing everyone in either a varsity or a junior varsity tournament, knowing that because of his team's all-around youth, that would be his wisest solution to finding which players would lead his team.

One fall experiment was putting together a junior varsity squad. That grouping won a tournament and produced the individual champion in Wes Vance.

"It's taking a bit of patience because this

team is so young," said Spybey, "but we knew this going in, so we were prepared. But I like this group. I like their potential. This is the best talent base that we have had in some time."

For years now, life-long Tuscaloosa native Betty Palmer has dreamed of the day her alma mater would have a golf facility to at least match those around the Southeastern Conference that she was recruiting against. While she has successfully recruited talented golfers whom she coached to All-America status at Alabama, at times the recruiting war has been a difficult battle without a top-notch golf facility to use as a weapon. Finally, her dream appears to be becoming reality. Not one but two new golf facilities are being built, facilities which Alabama's golf teams can call home. "The addition of two new golf courses has paid off in our recruiting already," said Palmer. "Both the Capstone Club and the course the (Tuscaloosa County) Parks and Recreation Authority is building are going to be championship facilities and great practice facilities. We now are able to step up our recruiting by having these two wonderful facilities."

Like Spybey, Palmer is going with a gutsy move of playing everybody and taking lumps early in order to find her best playing five for the 2000 season. Of her nine golfers, eight played in Alabama's fall tournaments. Only one of them, low stroke leader (75.67) Sarah Johnston, played in all four tournaments. "We have four new players this season, so we're building," said Palmer. Leaders of the team are veterans Johnston and Paula Carter, who was able to play in only two tournaments this fall before she had shoulder surgery.

Palmer said, "I'm fairly confident now who our top players are going to be based on our performance this past fall. We had one really outstanding tournament at Ohio State in October where we finished second. Paula had surgery right after that tournament, and that's when we began playing a lot of combinations. Our team finishes were marginal,

but what was encouraging was that we had personal bests at every tournament. And we used a different lineup each time. That's very promising when you're seeing personal bests for not one or two players but from several. That's the kind of play that makes a team a contender."

Palmer will welcome Carter back with what appears to be a shoulder that is even stronger than ever before. It was Carter who flirted with an individual championship at Ohio State, the site of the 2000 East Regionals. Carter shot 75-73-77 to finish second, one shot behind the winner. "She's worked hard to get back," Palmer said. "Paula is a determined young lady. She knows what this game can give back in return for what she puts in."

Johnston leads the way for the Tide and also came close to bringing home an individual championship last fall. She shot 72-72-73/217 to finish second, a stroke out of first. "Sarah and Paula make up our dynamic duo," Palmer said. "We need for both of them to play their best and we need for them to know that they need each other. Sarah has the physical and the mental part down. She needs to develop a little more on the greens. When she does, she'll be even more of a threat than she already is."

Palmer said she was also impressed by her youngest players including Lori Cate who played in one tournament, the Edwin Watts/Palmetto Women's Intercollegiate, Alabama's final fall tournament. Cate started high, shooting 83 in the first round. But Cate shot 76-74 in the final two rounds.

And Palmer also liked what she saw in the play of newcomer Jenny Bouvin who played in two tournaments and had mid-70s scores in those first times out. "What we're looking for is steady, solid golf," the coach said. "You have to play each hole as you find it. When you start playing to make up for mistakes, that's when you slip. That's something, especially with such a young team, that we work on at home so that they're not doing it in the heat of battle. Sometimes I think people don't think of golf as being a sport where you're in the heat of battle, but it's an individual sport. You can't see what your teammates ahead of you or behind you are doing, so you feel the pressure to perform. It's our goal to make par every hole and let the birdies fall where they may. The players we've had here in the past who were able to do that—the Kathryn Cusicks, the Judi Schneiders—those are the ones who have had the greatest success, the ones who have been the cornerstones of our program."

This, believes the coach, is a team fully ca-



Alabama golf teams this year will be led by Jan Are Larsen, who led Bama in scoring last year as a freshman and again this fall, and Sarah Johnston, who was the Tide's low stroke leader in fall tournaments.

Barry Fikes Photo

pable of making a trip back to Ohio State at season's end. In the past, seven, eight or nine teams advanced from the East Regional into the NCAA team finals. This season the odds are better as 12 teams from the East and 12 from the West will advance. "As far as I'm concerned, we'll be back at Ohio State

competing on that course for regionals," said Palmer. "These young ladies are very confident playing on that golf course. That was our intent when we went out there to play in that tournament this fall. I like this team's chances of being there at the regional at the end of the season."

Tiders Facing Up To Big Challenges

by Andrew Varble II

Men aim for NCAA top 16; women should improve

While Alabama's men and women's tennis teams are in different stages of development as they stand at the edge of the year 2000, both are excited about the possibilities their youth gives them and the talent tempered by experience that their veterans possess.

Men's Coach Adam Steinberg and Women's coach Jenny Mainz, both in their third seasons with the Tide, are looking forward to improved performances. Both believe that the Tide squads will improve as their seasons progress and that for Alabama

tennis, the new millennium will be an exciting place to be.

Steinberg has a healthy mix of veterans and newcomers as he faces the year 2000. There are two seniors, one junior, one sophomore and four freshman making up the Tide's line-up. The four rookies comprise the Tide's future and Steinberg hopes they can make an immediate contribution to Bama fortunes.

The Tide is coming off one of its best seasons in school history with highlights that include being ranked as high as ninth in the nation, defeating 13 ranked teams, having a home record of 8-2, and reaching the NCAA Championships for the fourth consecutive season.

This year's goals are similar to those of the past, with reaching the field of 16 at the NCAA Tournament in Athens, Georgia, at the top of the list.

The Crimson Tide is led this season by senior co-captains Francisco Rodriguez and Mason Snider. Rodriguez is considered the

best player in school history. He earned All-America honors for the second consecutive year with a final ranking of number 10. Snider has high expectations of being ranked for the first time at the end of the fall.

With help of returning players Chris McRae and Susheel Narla, Bama's senior duo will use their knowledge and expertise to make things happen for the Tide this season.

Alabama's roster also includes four freshmen: William Boyles, Brad Friedman, Brian Isern and Tom Givan. This quartet of young players is ready to make an impact on the SEC and collegiate tennis. When maturity and experience combine with youth and the desire to succeed this season, the Crimson Tide hopes to be a strong force.

The Tide has one other newcomer in the form of new assistant coach Tad Berkowitz.

Last season's 8-2 home record went a long way towards creating an atmosphere that is ominous to visiting teams. Steinberg believes that creating home court advantage will help the Tide in its quest to make it to



Many believe that senior Francisco Rodriguez is the best player in Alabama men's history. He is a two-time All-America who was ranked as high as 10th in the nation in men's college play last year. They will lead Bama teams in 2000. Dominique Glinzler, a fourth-year junior for the Alabama women's team, has a reputation for winning matches in courageous fashion.

Kent Gidley Photos

the final site of the NCAA Championships come May.

"My expectations for the team are always high," said Steinberg. "Our goal this year, just like every year, is to make it to the field of 16 at the NCAA Championships."

The road to that tournament will not be easy. The Tide will face an improved schedule which will test the young team, but also make it battle-hardened by the time the championship season rolls around.

"I think our schedule this season is much tougher than last year's," the coach said. "We face most of the best teams in the nation in the Southeastern Conference alone, but this year even our non-conference opponents are ranked nationally. It's really tough to single someone out on our schedule. Each team we face will be tough, and we are looking forward to the challenge. Even though it's a lot easier to play at home, we have to be able to play on the road. Playing at home is a lot easier for the guys because they feel very comfortable. There are more distractions on the road. We have to fight hard and try to win every match we have."

Fans can catch the Tide in action for the first time in dual play January 29, when Jacksonville State and Georgia State travel to Tuscaloosa for a double-header.

For the Tide's women, it is the difference between night and day. Last season, Mainz's crew took to the court with a grand total of three years of collegiate experience. Five true freshmen and one red-shirt freshman figured into the Tide's line-up. Alabama's experience came from a junior who had redshirted the season before and a senior who had missed her freshman year with a broken wrist.

This season, Alabama has seven years of collegiate experience returning and an outlook that is bright.

"We struggled last season; we lacked experience and maturity," Mainz said. "Five of them were also making the transition to college life. It was tough, because they all had to play right away. The learning curve was necessarily steep."

With a solid foundation of experience, Alabama can make long strides toward returning to the nation's elite. In addition to its five sophomores and one junior, Mainz has added a freshman who can make an immediate impact.

"We started the rebuilding process and installing a new system last season," Mainz said. "We're still building, filling the gaps with talent, leadership and depth. Rome wasn't built in a day, and this program won't rebound in a day, but we are on our way

back." Things the Tide may have stumbled over last season will go smoother this season and even smoother the year after.

"The players on this team signed here because they believe in Alabama, they believe in what we are doing here," Mainz said. To start this season, Mainz put her athletes in as many competitive situations as possible. From playing in the maximum number of tournaments this fall, to the way she structures practices, challenges came early and often for the players. She envisions the Tide as ready for any eventuality, battle-hardened, aggressive and dynamic.

Redshirt junior Dominique Glinzler is the veteran of the team. In her fourth year with the Tide, Glinzler played on the 1997 NCAA Tournament squad, then sat out her second year after injuring her knee in the pre-season. She came back last season, playing the middle of the singles line-up. Legendary for her ability to grind out matches, Glinzler has a never-say-die attitude that wins a number of matches.

Selia Mathew in her third year at Alabama, is a sophomore on the court. A shoulder problem left over from her prep career required surgery, so Mathew didn't compete as a rookie. Last season she played in the top half of the line-up in singles. The Tulsa, Oklahoma, native has all the shots and is, according to Mainz, the Tide's most talented player.

Alabama's "true" sophomores are the heart of its line-up. Becca Baum, Weyli Chang, Jenny Ketchum and Kathleen Mele all earned valuable experience last season, in a trial by fire that saw all four in the line-up against one of the nation's toughest schedules. Their experience should help them and the Tide begin the process of climbing back into the nation's elite.

Alabama's one newcomer is hungry to make an immediate contribution to the Tide's fortunes. Millie Begovic, a native of Yugoslavia who has trained and gone to school in the United States for the last several years, is capable of playing in the top-half of the line-up.

Like the men, the women have a newcomer at assistant coach, David Anderton.

Mainz' confidence in her squad is catching. Her charges are excited about the season and ready to get things started.

"I believe in these girls and in Alabama," Mainz said. "They have huge hearts and are willing to work very hard. We will get some breaks this season, and because of what we went through last season, and the things we learned about ourselves and each other, we are going to start winning the close matches and turn things around. These girls can do it. They have worked too hard for it not to happen."



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Football Prospects:

Catching Up On Bama Recruiting

by James Edwards

As always, there have been some changes

Although in previous issues of 'Bama we have tried to be thorough in providing updates on prospects around the state and region, inevitably the picture changes during the course of the season. A handful of players who were not considered prospects by the experts in August have played their way into scholarship contention as seniors.

And so this is an opportunity to fill in some gaps. Here are some additional high school players who have drawn the interest of major college football teams, including the attention of recruiters at The University of Alabama.

Additionally, we will take a look at some junior college sophomores, at some players who signed with Alabama last year but who were not academically eligible, bring you up to date on commitments, and note some who have already made official visits to The Capstone. That is not to say that all of these are going to be offered scholarships when signing day arrives February 2.

One of those prep players who was not regarded as a top prospect in August, but who had a great senior season, committed to Alabama in December.

Evan Mathis 6-5, 255, with a time of 4.8 in the 40-yard dash, is a center from Homewood High School in Birmingham. A well built player, he emerged as a senior to become a prospect and accepted Bama's offer. He has great agility, very good feet, long arms, terrific hands, and tremendous work ethic. His coach, Bob Newton, believes Mathis will fill out and become a 300-pounder in two years. He was a second team all-metro selection. He is the nephew of former Alabama and Miami Dolphins defensive tackle Bob Baumhower. He committed to Alabama over South Carolina, Duke, UAB, Georgia Tech, and Auburn.

Here are some other prep stars (in alphabetical order) who have become more prominent during the 1999 season.

Gary Banks, 6-1, 181, 4.6 from Southern Choctaw High School in Silas, was the starting quarterback on the two time 2A state champions, but will probably move to safety in college. He was MVP in the state championship game. He is academically qualified and considering Alabama, Auburn, South Carolina, Mississippi State, and Southern



Seante Williams

Mississippi.

Terrell Butler, cornerback, 6-0, 195, 4.4 from Pebblebrook High School in Mableton, Georgia, is a true cover corner who has really had a breakout season his senior year. He started getting noticed as a junior when he had 56 tackles and four interceptions in very few opportunities. He loves to play press man coverage, but he is smart enough to recognize offenses and back off in a zone. He presently has offers from Nebraska (his leader), Alabama, Boston College, and Tulane. He also is considering Georgia Tech, Ole Miss, and Auburn.

David Cavan, tight end, 6-6, 230, 4.75 from American Christian High School in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, plays for a powerful Class A program that was only bested by the eventual state champions, Courtland. He is a big presence on the field and he has very soft hands which makes him a true receiving tight end. He caught 30 passes for over 600 yards and six touchdowns thru the first 11 games of his senior year. He could turn out to be a diamond in the rough as far as state prospects are concerned. He is hearing from Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, Army, and Samford.

Stuart Floyd, quarterback/ punter, 6-2, 200, 4.65 from Clay Chalkville High School in Chalkville, was the leader of the surprising 6A state champions his senior year. Alabama, UAB, and others have made contact.

Teddy Gryska, tight end, 6-6, 215, 5.2 from Tuscaloosa Academy, is a private school player who may be considered more of a suspect than prospect at this stage. He does have bloodlines. He is the grandson of long-time Alabama assistant and administrator, Clem Gryska, himself a former Tide player. Teddy is being recruited by Jacksonville State and Millsaps, but says he has been invited to walk on at Alabama, and

that is what he intends to do.

Jonathan Jacksonson, wide receiver, 6-2, 202, 4.5 from Fairfield High School in Birmingham, only began playing football his junior year, but he burst on the scene. He played as many as 10 positions for his team last year (including kicker and kick return man, quarterback, wide receiver, tight end, and all defensive back spots). His primary slot is receiver where he had 35 receptions for over 600 yards and five touchdowns (all over 70 yards). He also has a 38-inch vertical jump which gives him a big advantage on jump balls. He is being evaluated by Auburn, Alabama, Louisville, UAB, Mississippi State, and Ole Miss.

Bennie Mills, defensive tackle, 6-4, 280, 5.0 from Rummel High School in Metairie, Louisiana, is a rugged interior lineman who stops the run with authority, pursues down the line, and rushes the passer from the inside. He is already qualified and is determining where he will visit. It has been reported that Alabama will get a visit, and he is also considering Florida, Oklahoma State, Tulane, Miami and Kentucky.

Darius Robinson, 6-1, 193, 4.5 from Ensley in Birmingham, is a high school linebacker who will have to move to strong safety at the college level. He played for a team that had just one victory, but that has not dimmed interest in Robinson. He had 100 tackles and three sacks his senior year. He camped at Alabama and Bama is the only major school calling him. He is getting attention from Grambling, Troy State, Jacksonville State, Alabama State, and Alabama A&M.

Deon Taylor, offensive guard, 6-3, 285, 5.1 from Muscle Shoals High School, has very good strength, excellent movement, and quick feet. He has the ability to play at the division one level, but he must receive an offer first. He visited Alabama twice for game day visits this year, and the Tide is looking along with UAB, Ole Miss, Louisville, and North Alabama.

Mike Wanderer, 6-8, 290, 4.9 from Granby High School in Norfolk, Virginia, was a tight end in high school who is projected as an offensive tackle in college. He is a terrific blocker with mobility and quick feet. His guardian is Steve Versprille and he and his father, Eddie, both played at Alabama. Mike camped at Penn State twice and they are looking along with Alabama, North Carolina, Wake Forest, and Marshall.

Zac Whitehead, 6-2, 235, 4.8 from Holly Pond in Cullman, Alabama, is a big fullback type who is primarily a blocker. He also is a powerful linebacker who had 114 tackles and was named his team's MVP. He is already qualified and he camped at Alabama. He favors Alabama over Ole Miss, Southern Miss, Mississippi State, and UAB.

Seante Williams, defensive end, 6-6, 235, 4.5 from Pine Forest High School in Pensacola, Florida, is very impressive both

on and off the field. He had a breakout season as a senior and his stock is going through the roof. He had 57 tackles and nine sacks his junior year. He is leaning to Alabama over Auburn, Southern Mississippi, Florida, and MTSU. He may have to go the junior college route.

It would not be a big surprise to see Alabama go into the junior college ranks for help this year. Bama has had success with junior college transfers. However, Tide Head Coach Mike DuBose has indicated that he does not want to sign junior college players unless they can enter The University during the spring semester and take part in spring practice. There are projections that Bama may sign as many as four junior college transfers. And it is also possible that Bama would sign one or more junior college players who are not eligible for immediate transfer.

One junior college sophomore has already announced that he will sign with Bama in December.

Aries Monroe, linebacker, 6-2, 236, 4.47 from Coffeyville (Kansas) Junior College, announced his commitment to the Tide last summer and he will sign in December. He signed with Alabama two years ago after a stellar prep career at Godby High School in Tallahassee, Florida. He won the Defensive MVP on the Coffeyville team as a freshman, and followed that with an even better sophomore year that landed him on the JUCO All America First Team. He has the ability to play either an outside linebacker slot or step up and play a rush end.

Some other junior college prospects getting a look from Bama include:

Connie Brown, 6-3, 205, 4.5 from City College of San Francisco in California, is a prototype free safety candidate. He is originally from Rohnert Park, California. As a sophomore in the school that gave Alabama Miguel Merritt, Canary Knight and Milo

Lewis, he was selected as a first team Junior College All America. He appears at this time to be a May graduate. He seems to be set to choose between Alabama and Tennessee. He has already made official visits to both.

David Daniel, defensive tackle, 6-0, 280, 4.9 from East Central Mississippi Junior College in Decatur, Mississippi, is a former star at Tuscaloosa County High School where he was the defensive leader on a state championship team. He made the Super 25 JUCO Team in Mississippi. He signed with Mississippi State out of high school and they are interested in resigning him, but if Alabama offers it could get interesting.

Sean Oglesby, defensive end, 6-7, 250, 4.8 from City College of San Francisco, was a Bluegrass State stud who was forgotten about by many because he did not play his senior year of high school. He was the pre-season number two player in the state his senior year to Dennis Johnson, but due to his inactivity, his stock bottomed out. However, he had a rebirth in junior college and his stock is once again soaring. He could be instant help for some lucky college that is in need of a fast pass rushing defensive end. He appears to have a chance to graduate in December, and he has already visited Alabama, Arkansas, and Tennessee officially.

Adrian Weeks, strong safety, 6-1, 217, 4.5 from Jones Junior College in Ellisville, Mississippi, is the brother of Alabama defensive back, Phillip Weeks. He visited Alabama out of high school (Lake Butler, Florida, Union County) with his friend and teammate, Andrew Zow. He did receive interest from Alabama, but his academics prevented an offer. He signed with Auburn, but left after one season and enrolled in junior college. He has grown into potential linebacker size and he could get a look there as well as strong safety. He played outside linebacker this season and produced 60 tackles. Alabama, Auburn, LSU, and Central Florida are showing interest.

Another avenue that will be traveled by Alabama recruiters this year is the re-signing of five players who were inked last year. Those players, who were not academically eligible to enter Bama in August, will not include tight end Michael Gaines of Tallahassee. Gaines recently announced that he intends to sign with Miami.

However, here is an update on other 1999 signees who are now expected to join the Alabama class entering in 2000.

Gerard Clark, 6-7, 255, 4.75 from Milford (Connecticut) Prep School, originally from Daytona Beach, Florida, Mainland High School, appears to have attained qualifying standards at prep school and will enroll at Alabama in the fall. He could end up at either an offensive line spot or at defensive end.

Leonard Fulgham, wide receiver, 6-2, 185, 4.4 from Montevallo High School, also appears to be on his way to being qualified and will enroll in the fall.

Raymon Hudson, 5-10, 190, 4.4 from Holmes County High School in Bonifay, Florida, was a running back and cornerback in high school and will be a cornerback when he arrives at Alabama next August.

Garry McNealy, 6-5, 275, 4.85 from Taylor County High School in Perry, Florida, will be the first resignee to play due to the need at defensive tackle, and the fact he is expected to enroll in January.

Derrick Woods, wide receiver, 5-9, 165, 4.4 from Melrose High School in Memphis, Tennessee, reportedly earned his high school degree in August after attending summer school. If he is cleared academically he could enter Alabama in January, but it may be next August.

In addition to Mathis and Monroe, Alabama has commitments from the following:

Carlos Andrews, a safety and running back from Godby High School in Tallahassee, Florida; Harold James, a running back and defensive back/linebacker from Osceola, Arkansas; Donnie Lowe, a linebacker and

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tight end/fullback from LaVergne, Tennessee; Antwan Odom, a defensive end from Alma Bryant High School in Bayou La Batre; Matthew Sanders, a punter from Ashville; Mac Tyler, a defensive lineman from Jess Lanier in Bessemer; and Derrian Walker, a wide receiver who is also from Jess Lanier in Bessemer.

Alabama had perhaps its best year ever for star players visiting on game days. While

most of those campus viewers were unofficial visitors, there was a handful that made official visits during the weekend of some big football games. This is done by players so that they can receive the individual attention of the coaches, and so that they can get an idea of the college atmosphere on game days. Those prospects who have made official visits include:

Brooks Daniels, a 6-3, 200, 4.5, linebacker,

from Hamilton County High School in Jasper, Florida, on October 24; Charles Howard, 6-3, 205, 4.5, linebacker, Union County in Lake Butler, Florida, on October 30; Chad Mascoe, 6-3, 220, 4.55, linebacker from Osceola High in Kissimmee, Florida, on November 13; Connie Brown, 6-3, 205, 4.5, safety, and Sean Oglesby, 6-7, 250, 4.8, defensive end, both from City College of San Francisco on November 21.

Early Signing Period Success For Winter, Spring Sports

There is talk from time-to-time of football adding an early signing period, but for now that feature is limited to winter and spring sports. And in that one-week period in November the Crimson Tide was able to add a number of signees.

Coach Jim Wells' baseball team announced two of its signees earlier. They were right-handed pitchers Jared Woodward of Tuscaloosa and Josh Thigpen of Greenhill. But Wells wasn't near finished. The number of early signees is now at 10, five more high school seniors and three junior college transfers. The latest baseball signees are:

Landon Brazell (Dothan High School), Mark Carter (Wallace State Community College), Shane Sanders (Wallace State Community College), Michael Machen (McGill-Toolen High School, Mobile), Brandon Mims (Prattville High School), David Putnam (Bevill State Community College), Peter Stonard (Clayton High School, Missouri), and Chad White (Prattville High School).

Nine of the Crimson Tide's 10 signees hail from the state of Alabama. The Crimson Tide's list includes three of the state's high school prospects according to *Baseball America*. Machen (second), Mims (third) and White (ninth) are listed among the state's top prospects. Stonard is also listed by *Baseball America* as one of the top high school prospects in the state of Missouri.

Carter and Sanders are listed among the top junior college players in the country and were both All-America selections in 1999.

Here is a brief look at the eight new baseball signees.

Brazell (6-0, 185, RHP) compiled an 11-2 record and 1.70 ERA as a junior at Dothan High. He led his team to the area championship, which included a three-game sweep over rival Northview. He continued his strong play this summer, playing a major role in Dothan Post 12's first-place showing at the Alabama American Legion State Tournament. He made nine starts for Post 12 and struck out 72 batters in 51 innings. Opposing teams batted .173 against him. His fastball has been clocked in the 90s and he has an excellent change-up.

Carter (6-3, 215, RHP) was named first-team Junior College All-America as a freshman last year at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville. He posted a 16-2 record. As a senior at Hewitt-Trussville High School, Carter was 13-1 and led the state in strikeouts in 1998. Carter was named first-team all-state and he was also tabbed the Class 6A Player of the Year. He played at Trussville for Coach John Scozzaro.

Machen (6-6, 190, RHP) attends McGill-Toolen High School in Mobile. Machen attended the East Coast Professional Baseball Showcase and the Perfect Game National Showcase for the nation's top high school prospects...He was as all-area, all-county and all-state. Machen was also a member of the football and basketball teams. On the gridiron, he was voted all-area and all-county and twice he was named the *Mobile Register* Player of the Week.

Mims (6-2, 184, RHP) holds Prattville records for single-season (12) and career wins (32) as well as the single-season (152) and career strikeout record (278) entering his senior season. He has earned all-state honors each of the last three years. As a junior, Mims won 12 games and posted 152 strikeouts, leading Prattville to a school-record 42 wins and a berth in the state playoffs. He also led the team with a .432 batting average, 13 home runs and 47 RBI. Mims also set the Dixie Majors record with four wins, leading Prattville to the Dixie Majors World Series Championship.

Putnam (6-2, 205, C) is a sophomore at Bevill State Community College for Coach Matt Bragga. As a freshman, Putnam batted .396 (71-for-180) with six home runs and 52 RBI. A second-team all-con-

ference selection, Putnam was first in the league with 22 doubles, third in RBI (52), third in hits (71), sixth in total bases (119) and 19th in batting average. In addition, Putnam was voted to the National Junior College All-Star Team. He was also a member of the US National Team, where he batted .667 (10-for-15) with three doubles in five games. Putnam attended Suffolk (Virginia) Academy where he lettered in baseball, basketball and cross country. He led his high school team to the state title in 1996 and a runner-up spot in 1997.

Sanders (5-11, 210, RHP) is a sophomore at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville. As a freshman for Coach Randy Putman, Sanders was second in the nation with 13 saves, leading Wallace State to the 1999 Alabama State Championship and Regional Championship. Wallace State finished third in the 1999 JuCo World Series. Sanders attended Cullman High School, where he was a three-year starter. As a senior (1997), he was the team's Most Valuable Player with a .603 batting average. On the mound, he compiled a 0.45 ERA and fanned 86 batters. As a junior (1997), he batted .311 and recorded 92 strikeouts. As a sophomore (1996), he batted .322 and recorded 72 strikeouts.

Stonard (6-0, 170 INF) is a standout middle infielder from Clayton (Missouri) High School. As a prep junior, he batted .645 and was honorable mention All-America (*Collegiate Baseball*) and first-team all-state. While being named the Most Valuable Player, Stonard led his team to the 1999 conference championship. He played for the Midwest prospects this summer and placed third in the national AAU championships, where he was selected to the AAU All-Tournament team. He also played football, basketball and soccer at Clayton High. As captain of the soccer team, Stonard was all-state and set the single season scoring record with 31 goals.

White (6-2, 180, RHP) was named the Most Outstanding Pitcher at Prattville High School as a junior. He was all-state honorable mention. White was seventh in the state last year with a 1.22 ERA and led Prattville to the state record for wins in 1998. He is also a member of the National Honor Society and was a member of the 1999 Dixie Majors World Series championship team.

The softball team of Coach Pat Murphy announced Erin Wright of Mortimer Jordan High School as an early signee, but then the scholarship papers came back from three other highly-regarded high school senior stars.

Other new softball signees are Angela Johnson of Birmingham, Jackie McClain of Soddy Daisy, Tennessee, and Lindsay Testa of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

Johnson, 5-7, was selected first team all-state from John Carroll High School last year as a junior and was also a member of the Birmingham Vipers (along with Wright) that finished fourth at the National Softball Association 18-and-under World Series.

McClain, 5-10, attends a girl's preparatory school in Chattanooga, where she was all-state 1997-99 and the Division II Player of the Year in 1998 and 1999.

Testa, 5-3, attends Palm Beach Gardens High School where she was all-state for two years. Her club team, the Lady Gators, was two-time national champions in 1995 and 1998 and won the state tournament four times.

The watchword for the four swimmers on the list—Worby, Proffitt, King and Ross—is versatility. All four are competitive in a wide range of events.

—Kirk McNair

1999-2000 Alabama Winter Sports Schedules

Men's Basketball

Date/	Opponent	Time (CST)/ Opp.
UA		
85	Next Level (Exh.)	87 (2OT)
80	B.C. Siroki (Exh.)	70
	Earth Grains Classic @ St. Louis, Missouri	
73	Northern Iowa	74
70	St. Louis	78
81	Weber State	61
91	Tennessee Tech	72
	Alabama Invitational @ Coleman Coliseum	
94	Centenary	72
85	LaSalle	70
67	Samford (SportsSouth TV)	79
72	@ Louisville	87
Dec. 18	Tennessee-Chattanooga (Fox SportsSouth TV)	1:00
	@ Von Braun Center, Huntsville	
Dec. 21	Alabama A&M	7:00
	Fiesta Bowl Classic @ Tucson, Arizona	
Dec. 28	Delaware	7:00
Dec. 30	Arizona or NC-Wilmington	TBA
Jan. 5	@ LSU	7:00
Jan. 8	Mississippi State	7:00
Jan. 15	@ Georgia (J-P TV)	1:30 or 4:00
Jan. 19	Arkansas	7:00
Jan. 22	Florida (Pay-Per-View)	7:00
Jan. 29	Ole Miss	7:00
Feb. 2	@ Auburn (CSSE TV)	7:00
Feb. 5	LSU	7:00
Feb. 9	@ Arkansas (J-P TV)	7:00
Feb. 12	Vanderbilt	7:00
Feb. 16	@ Kentucky (J-P TV)	7:00
Feb. 19	@ South Carolina	6:30
Feb. 22	Auburn (ESPN TV)	6:00
Feb. 26	Tennessee (J-P TV)	1:00
March 1	@ Ole Miss	7:00
March 4	@ Mississippi State	2:00
	Southeastern Conference Tournament	
March 9-12	@ Atlanta	TBA

Men's Swimming

Date/	Opponent	Time (CT)/ Opp. Score
UA Score		
135.5	Northeast Louisiana	95.5
84	LSU	154
102	@ Auburn	179
Dec. 2-4	US Open @ San Antonio	
Jan. 4	@ Florida	11:00
Jan. 8	Penn State	1:00
Jan. 22	@ Clemson	1:00
Jan. 29	South Carolina	1:00
Feb. 16-	SEC Championships	
Feb. 19	@ Baton Rouge	
Feb. 25-27	Last Chance @ Auburn	
Mar. 10-11	NCAA Diving Zone @ Auburn	
Mar. 23-	NCAA Championships	
Mar. 25	@ Minneapolis	
Mar. 28-	USS National Championships	
April 1	@ Federal Way, Wash.	
April 2-	U.S. Diving Zone	
April 4	@ Athens	
April 13-	U.S. Diving Championships	
April 18	@ TBA	

Women's Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time (CST)/ Opp.
UA		
94	Mississippi All-Stars (Exh.)	82
76	Slovan Bartislavia (Exh.)	67
	Michigan State Holiday Classic	
77	St. John's	50
72	Michigan State	73
88	Samford	51
	Cancun (Mexico) Basketball Tournament	
63	Kansas State	60
87	Drake	77
82	South Alabama	54
69	@ Tulane	81
82	@ Akron	62
76	Alabama A&M	51
	St. Mary's Christmas Classic @ Moraga, Cal.	
Dec. 20	Canisius, St. Mary's or Missouri-Kansas City	TBA
Dec. 21	Finals	TBA
Dec. 29	@ Memphis	7:00
Jan. 6	Belmont	7:00
Jan. 9	Georgia	2:00
Jan. 13	@ Auburn	7:00
Jan. 20	@ Ole Miss	7:00
Jan. 23	Mississippi State	2:00
Jan. 27	Kentucky	7:00
Jan. 30	Ole Miss	2:00
Feb. 3@	Arkansas	7:00
Feb. 6	@ Tennessee	2:00
Feb. 10	LSU	7:00
Feb. 13	Auburn (Fox SportsSouth)	2:00
Feb. 17	@ South Carolina	6:00
Feb. 20	Vanderbilt	2:00
Feb. 24	@ Georgia	6:00
Feb. 27	@ Florida	2:00
	Southeastern Conference Tournament	
March 2-5	@ Chattanooga	TBA

Gymnastics

Date	Opponent	Time (CST)
Jan. 2	Excite Night (Intrasquad)	2:00
Jan. 8	Super Six Kickoff @ Athens, Georgia	5:30
	(Alabama, Georgia, Florida, UCLA, Michigan, Northeastern)	
Jan. 15	Auburn	7:00
Jan. 21	Florida	7:00
Jan. 28	@ Georgia (ESPN)	6:30
Jan. 30	@ Auburn	2:00
Feb. 4	@ LSU	7:00
Feb. 11	North Carolina	7:00
Feb. 18	Arizona State Invitational @ Tempe, Arizona	8:00
	(Alabama, Arizona State, Minnesota, Utah)	
Feb. 25	@ Kentucky	6:30
March 4	Georgia (SportsSouth)	7:00
March 11	Penn State	7:00
March 18	SEC Championships @ Gainesville	
April 1	NCAA Central Regional	
April 13-	NCAA Championships	
April 15	@ Boise, Idaho	

Men's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 15	Purple Tiger @ Baton Rouge
Jan. 22	SEC Four-Way @ Lexington (Alabama, Mississippi State, Tennessee, Kentucky)
Feb. 4-5	Notre Dame Classic @ South Bend, Ind.
Feb. 25-27	SEC Championships @ Fayetteville
March 3-4	USATF Championships @ Atlanta
March 10-11	NCAA Championships @ Fayetteville

Women's Swimming

Date	Opponent	Time (CT)/ Opp. Score
UA Score		
90	Northeast Louisiana	23
92	Georgia Southern	21
101.5	LSU	139.5
105	@ Auburn	185
Dec. 2-4	US Open @ San Antonio	
Jan. 4	@ Florida	11:00
Jan. 8	Penn State	1:00
Jan. 22	@ Clemson	1:00
Jan. 29	South Carolina	1:00
Feb. 16-	SEC Championships	
Feb. 19	@ Baton Rouge	
Feb. 25-27	Last Chance @ Auburn	
Mar. 10-11	NCAA Diving Zone @ Auburn	
Mar. 16-	NCAA Championships	
Mar. 18	@ Indianapolis	
Mar. 28-	USS National Championships	
April 1	@ Federal Way, Wash.	
April 2-	U.S. Diving Zone	
April 4	@ Athens	
April 13-	U.S. Diving Championships	
April 18	@ TBA	

Women's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 15	Purple Tiger @ Baton Rouge
Jan. 22	SEC Four-Way @ Lexington (Alabama, Mississippi State, Tennessee, Kentucky)
Feb. 4-5	Cannon IV @ Indianapolis
Feb. 11	Virginia Tech Invitational @ Blacksburg
Feb. 25-27	SEC Championships @ Fayetteville
March 3-4	USATF Championships @ Atlanta
March 10-11	NCAA Championships @ Fayetteville

BAMA SCORECARD

Wait Until New Year

Alabama Head Coach Mike DuBose has noted on several occasions that the Crimson Tide football team may have gotten a little ahead of the schedule he realistically expected. This year's Bama team had been predicted about 20th in most pre-season polls. Almost no one would have selected Alabama to win the Southeastern Conference championship. However, with a national ranking of fifth in the Associated Press poll going into the Orange Bowl, and realizing that only five seniors are among the 22 offensive and defensive starters, only a couple more in back-up positions, there is a temptation to think about next year.

Alabama will certainly be ranked among the top teams going into next season and the Tide could get some pre-2000 support to win the national championship. The last time Alabama won the national title, in 1992, only one Associated Press voter was convinced from the start that Bama had what it took. Corky Simpson, an Arizona sportswriter, picked Alabama number one in the pre-season and Bama got that single vote all the way through the season. Only after Bama had dismantled Miami in the Sugar Bowl did every other voter join Simpson.

A parade was a part of Alabama's national championship celebration following that game and Simpson was invited to serve as grand marshall.

Later a story circulated that because of his participation in the parade, Simpson had been removed from the AP college football voters list. He recently shared the following with an Alabama fan:

"I want at least one person in Alabama to know that I was not kicked off the AP Poll because I came to Alabama and was grand marshall of their National Championship Parade. I thought it would be a stroke of genius to send in my 'resignation' to the Associated Press. So I did. I retired undefeated. The record will show that I was never wrong, that Alabama was number one all along. But I got a call a few months later from a reporter with *The Sporting News*. He had a story in mind and he wasn't going to let the facts get in his way. He wanted a comment on my being kicked off the AP poll. I told him that was foolish, that I had 'resigned,' and that because the vote rotates each year between Tucson and Phoenix, I wouldn't have cast the vote the following season anyhow. Despite that, he wrote his story his way, ignoring the truth. My publisher was so incensed, he wrote to the Associated Press and demanded an apology. I received one, from the head of AP International, and I still have it in my desk."

Happy Anniversary

The 2000 college football season will be a special one for the Alabama Crimson Tide.

The 2000 season will mark the 75th anniversary of the Crimson Tide's first national championship (1925) and first bowl season. Bama posted a 10-0 record in 1925 and beat Washington, 20-19, in the January 1, 1926, Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

Alabama will open the 2000 season on September 2 against UCLA in the Rose Bowl, where the Bruins now play their home games.

Tiders Earn Honors

Plenty of honors have rolled in for members of the Alabama football team in recent weeks. Although Shaun Alexander did not win the Heisman Trophy, his seventh place finish was more than respectable. He was also a finalist for the Doak Walker Award presented to the nation's best running back, finishing behind Heisman Trophy winner Ron Dayne of Wisconsin.

But Alexander was named Southeastern Conference Player of the Year in a unanimous vote by Southeastern Conference coaches and was also the Player of the Year on the Associated Press All-SEC team. Alexander has generally been ranked second team All-America.

Bama's most honored player is offensive tackle Chris Samuels. He has been named to every All-America first team and was selected as winner of the Outland Trophy, given to the nation's best lineman. In addition to being named All-SEC, league coaches selected him as winner of the Jacobs Award, given to the player deemed the best blocker in the conference.

Alabama also had junior center Paul Hogan and sophomore wide receiver Freddie Milons (who was the Most Valuable Player in the SEC Championship Game) selected first team All-SEC, while defensive tackle Cornelius Griffin was named second team all-conference.

Bama newcomers also came in for honors. The Freshman All-SEC team included five Crimson Tide players, including Freshman Defensive Player of the Year Saleem Rasheed. Other Tiders selected for the squad are quarterback Tyler Watty, offensive tackle Dante Ellington, defensive end Kenny King, and linebacker Marvin Constant.

Alabama Head Coach Mike DuBose is the unanimous SEC Coach of the Year by his fellow coaches and also earned the AP award.

Contract Extension

Although there were published reports in early December that Athletics Director Mal Moore was on the verge of restoring the two years of Head Football Coach Mike DuBose's contract that were taken away when he was disciplined last August, that restoration has not taken place and may not. That does not mean that Moore will not come up with a plan to assure DuBose's future at Alabama

and also get his salary in line with the league's top coaches, which he has proven to be.

Ingram Honored

Cecil "Hootie" Ingram is being inducted into the Orange Bowl Hall of Fame at this year's game. Ingram was a star defensive back for the Crimson Tide team that defeated Syracuse, 61-6, in the January 1, 1953, Orange Bowl game. Ingram contributed to the win with an 80-yard punt return for a touchdown, the longest punt return in Bama bowl history. Ingram lettered at Alabama 1952-54. He later served as director of athletics at Alabama from 1989 through 1996.

Hays Lost

Jeremy Hays, Alabama's 6-foot-10 basketball center, successfully underwent surgery December 1 for reconstruction of his anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee as well as a medial meniscus repair. The procedure was done at DCH Regional Medical Center by the Crimson Tide's team orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Les Fowler. Hays has already begun rehabilitation, but will have to remain non-weight bearing on his left leg for the next few weeks to allow proper healing for the meniscal repair.

"The MRI didn't indicate any meniscal damage," said John Morr, the basketball team's athletic trainer who will oversee Hays' rehabilitation and recovery. "However, with Dr. Fowler's experience, he anticipated possible meniscal injury. So it wasn't unexpected during the surgery, and Dr. Fowler was prepared to repair it during surgery which will give Jeremy a more stable knee in the long run. I anticipate Jeremy's return and complete recovery based on all the successes we've had with Dr. Fowler's reconstructions."

The Boaz native injured the knee just as he was on the way to a record night in the championship game of the Alabama Basketball Traditions Classic. Hays opened the game making seven of seven attempts from the field and had 24 points-in 19 minutes of play-by halftime. At one point in the first half, Hays had scored 17 points, the same number that Alabama's opponent, LaSalle, had scored as a team. Hays, who is also an academic standout as a business major, had just tied his career high with his 26th point barely a minute into the second half when he injured the knee.

Because he has played in only four games this season, he will qualify as a medical red-shirt and will return to Alabama's lineup for the 2000-2001 season.

Another Surgery

The Alabama women's basketball team also lost a player to knee surgery this year. Beth Vice, a 5-11 sophomore wing player from Mount Sterling, Kentucky, underwent surgery in November. The surgery was to correct a previous surgery from her senior year in high school. She is a former Miss Kentucky. She will rehabilitate this season and be redshirted and have three years of eligibility remaining next year.

Last summer Vice had injured her other knee and had undergone surgery, but she

had completely recovered from that injury when practice began this year.

Big Crowd

There is a way to have big crowds at Alabama women's basketball games. When the Crimson Tide hosted Alabama A&M in early December, there were 7,094 in Coleman Coliseum. The crowd was not drawn entirely by the game, which was an easy 76-51 win by Bama. A large number of those in attendance were hoping to be the lucky winner of a new Mercedes M Class, which was being given away. Nevertheless, the crowd was the third largest at Coleman Coliseum in Alabama women's basketball history and the largest crowd for a non-conference game.

They Can Do It All

Alabama gymnasts have a well-deserved reputation for doing everything well. Sarah Patterson's athletes have traditionally ranked among the nation's best in their sport, and the gymnastics team also is always among the leaders in academic competition at The University.

This year members of the squad took time from their training regime for a bake sale. The confectionaries were created and sold by the gymnasts and all proceeds went to gifts for Project Angel Tree, a Salvation Army initiative that provides Christmas presents for children who otherwise would go without. Every item sold, assuring a happy holiday for several Tuscaloosa area children.

Academic Achievement

The Southeastern Conference 1999 Academic Honor Roll for volleyball included seven Crimson Tide players. The Tide's total matched the program high for Academic All-SEC selections in a season, equalling the seven honorees in 1994. To be eligible for the award, a student-athlete must be a sophomore or higher academically and have maintained a 3.0 or higher grade point average over the past year. "I could not be more proud of our student-athletes," said Coach Judy Green. "This group is a perfect example of the type of people that we want representing our program. They have all shown great commitment to having successful futures. It is a great honor to have this many players on the Academic All-SEC team."

This season's award winners for the Tide include Melissa Clark (3.12 -Management), Sarah Cotten (3.98 - Psychology), Kelly Fash (3.66 in Public Relations), Michelle Green (3.81 in Secondary Education), Sarah Kreimer (3.18 in Apparel Design), Allison Lange (3.94 in Biology) and Jen Wagner (4.00 in Pre-major Studies).

More Volleyball Honors

A trio of Alabama volleyball players garnered post-season honors for their work on and off the court.

Michelle Green, a junior from Rolla, Missouri, became just the second Alabama player to be named to the All-District IV volleyball team by the American Volleyball Coaches Association. Green, a first team All-

SEC selection, was one of 12 players selected by the AVCA for the district honor. She is now a finalist for AVCA All-American recognition.

"It is definitely a well deserved honor for Michelle," said Coach Judy Green. "She worked very hard and was very committed to making herself a consistent all-around player and that's exactly what she was this season. She was a dominant player in our league and was one of the key reasons for our team success. I think that our team's success helped Michelle earn this recognition."

Green led the Southeastern Conference in kills this season with 4.58 per game. Her total of 572 kills this season was the fourth highest total in Alabama history. She also led the 1999 team with 400 digs.

Off the court, Green also garnered attention earning GTE Academic All-District IV honors along with teammates Allison Lange and Jen Wagner. Green was named to the second team while Lange and Wagner both earned third team honors. This season marked the first time that Alabama had ever placed more than one student-athlete on the All-District team and it was the first time since 1993 for a UA player to earn the honor.

The GTE All-District team is voted on by the Sports Information offices at the university's in that district with athletes having to be a starter or important reserve and maintaining at least a 3.20 GPA or higher.

"These three young women are true examples of student-athletes," said Green. "They represent the type of well-rounded player that we want to have in our program at The University of Alabama. It is a tremendous reflection on the hard work that these players put forth on and off the court. It is also a tribute to the commitment they have towards their futures."

The 1999 Alabama volleyball team finished the year at 17-15, the first winning season since 1995. The Tide posted a 7-8 mark in the SEC and set several program statistical records. Alabama returns every player next year from this year's squad.

Coach of the Year

Alabama Men's Cross Country Coach David Troy was the unanimous selection of his fellow coaches as NCAA All-South Region Coach of the Year. The 1999 award is Troy's fifth regional cross country award. He also won the award in 1986 and 1987, and has received the honor three times this decade, 1994, 1997 and now in 1999. Coaches of teams participating in this year's NCAA All-South Region Cross Country Championship race voted to determine the Coach of the Year.

"I am very pleased and honored to receive this great recognition from my fellow coaches," said Troy. "It's really a tribute to the strong effort given by all the athletes on our cross country team. They are the ones that really won the award, I'm just the one that they named."

Cross Country Results

The Alabama men's cross country team

finished 23rd in this year's national championships with two Tiders earning All-America recognition. Senior Tim Broe finished 11th in his final college cross country competition, while junior Chris Mutai was 19th. Also competing for Bama were Michael Cheuttle, Frank Rono and Dean Fulmer.

Although the Bama women's team did not qualify, two members of the Crimson Tide squad competed as individuals. Sophomore Ashley LaBudde and freshman Dawn Boggs represented the Alabama women in the competition. Boggs became the third freshman in three years to qualify for the NCAA Championships in her first try. LaBudde pulled off the same feat her freshman season last year, and Amanda Grout started the trend her freshman season in 1997.

First Captains

With a brand new stadium already awaiting them, the Crimson Tide softball team will have something else new in 2000: team captains.

The team has elected seniors Christy Kyle and Paula White the first ever captains in the program's short history. Kyle and White were with the Crimson Tide when the program was started, and they will now carry Alabama into the new millennium and their new stadium.

In 1997, Kyle and White helped lead Alabama to its best record, 49-18. Both were an integral part of the team in 1998, a team that brought home The University's first SEC Tournament championship in softball. In 1999 they were instrumental in taking the Crimson Tide to the NCAA tournament, also a first in school history.

The Crimson Tide's inaugural game in its new stadium will be Wednesday, February 23, 2000, against the UAB Blazers.

Entrepreneur

Among the many promotions of the Southeastern Conference is one begun this year, recognizing women entrepreneurs, former women athletes in the SEC who have gone on to success outside athletics competition. Each of the 12 SEC schools had a representative.

Alabama's representative is Barbara Trammell, who was graduated from The University in 1980 with a degree in Business Administration. While at Alabama she was a member of the golf team (1976-80). She began her career as an assistant golf coach at Mississippi State. From 1983 to 1986 she was assistant professional at Deerfield in Madison, Mississippi.

Her expertise in the Rules of Golf has led her to become a member of the United States Golf Association Rules Committee. Additionally, she was invited to serve on the rules committee of the prestigious Men's United States Open, the Men's British Open, and the Masters.

In 1994 Trammell was appointed as the assistant director of tournament operations for the Ladies Professional Golfers Association (LPGA). This year she was named director.

'BAMA Magazine's Team of the Decade Ballot

Offense (Check name on ballot or write in a choice)

QUARTERBACK (Choose 1)

- Jay Barker
- Freddie Kitchens
- Andrew Zow
- _____

TAILBACK (Choose 1)

- Curtis Alexander
- Shaun Alexander
- Derrick Lassic
- Dennis Riddle
- Siran Stacy
- Sherman Williams
- _____

LINEMAN (Choose 4)

- Maurice Belser
- Terrill Chatman
- John Clay
- Will Cuthbert
- Pete DiMario
- Will Friend
- Matt Hammond
- Joey Harville
- Joel Holliday
- Roosevelt Patterson
- Griff Redmill
- Chris Robinette
- Chris Samuels
- Sage Spree
- Jon Stevenson
- Laron White
- George Wilson
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

WIDE RECEIVER (Choose 2)

- Tim Bowens
- Curtis Brown
- Shamari Buchanan
- Calvin Hall
- Quincy Jackson
- Chad Key
- Kevin Lee
- Jason McAddley
- Freddie Milons
- David Palmer
- Michael Vaughn
- Prince Wimbley
- _____
- _____

CENTER (Choose 1)

- John Causey
- Paul Hogan
- Tobie Sheils
- Roger Shultz
- _____

FULLBACK (Choose 1)

- Martin Houston
- Tarrant Lynch
- Dustin McClintock
- Kevin Turner
- _____

TIGHT END (Choose 1)

- Steve Busky
- Patrick Hape
- Tony Johnson
- Terry Jones
- Rod Rutledge
- _____

PLACEKICKER (Choose 1)

- Philip Doyle
- Michael Proctor
- _____

Defense (Check name on ballot or write in a choice)

LINEMAN (Choose 4)

- Shannon Brown
- Kendrick Burton
- John Copeland
- Eric Curry
- James Gregory
- Cornelius Griffin
- Byron Holdbrooks
- Chris Hood
- Dameian Jeffries
- Kelvin Moore
- Kindal Moorehead
- Michael Myers
- Jeremy Nunley
- Ozell Powell
- Kenny Smith
- Robert Stewart
- George Thornton
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

LINEBACKER (Choose 3)

- Fernando Davis
- Lemanski Hall
- Spencer Hammond
- Canary Knight
- Antonio London
- Miguel Merritt
- Derrick Oden
- Michael Rogers
- Andre Royal
- Dwayne Rudd
- Ralph Staten
- John Sullins
- John Walters
- Steve Webb
- _____
- _____
- _____

DEFENSIVE BACK (Choose 4)

- Fernando Bryant
- Tony Dixon
- Chris Donnelly
- Willie Gaston
- Stacy Harrison
- Kevin Jackson
- Tommy Johnson
- Antonio Langham
- Mark McMillian
- Cedric Samuel
- Sam Shade
- Kelvin Sigler
- Marcus Spencer
- George Teague
- Efrum Thomas
- Deshea Townsend
- Eric Turner
- Lorenzo Ward
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

PUNTER (Choose 1)

- Bryne Diehl
- Daniel Pope
- Hayden Stockton
- Tank Williamson
- _____

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